MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 MARCH 1982

Israel

Budget Approval -- The Knesset approved the supplementary budget law by 59 votes to 57, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio said that despite the continued opposition of MK Hayim Druckman, the government won a majority because of the absence of one Alignment MK and the abstention of a Telem MK.

West Bank Unrest -- The Gush 'Ezyon treasurer shot and wounded a stone-thrower after his vehicle was ambushed and attacked with stones and burning tires near the village of Al-Khidr, Jerusalem radio reported. The authorities subsequently imposed a curfew on Al-Khidr, and also maintained curfews or sieges on seven other Arab areas. The radio noted that two IDF soldiers were injured by stones thrown by demonstrators in Nabulus and that another soldier was injured in Tubas. According to the radio, 25 youths were arrested in Bethlehem on suspicion of participating in a demonstration.

Relations With Egypt -- In a message delivered to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on 28 March, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reaffirmed Israel will fulfill all its commitments in the peace treaty and will withdraw from the Sinai on time despite difficulties, Jerusalem radio reported. Regarding the dispute over the demarcation of the border at Tabah, near Elat, Begin said Israel is not asking Egypt to give up even 1 centimeter of its territory because the disputed area is Israeli in the full sense of the word. Begin reiterated his proposal that an attempt be made to solve the dispute through agreement, prior to which life in the disputed area will continue unchanged. While the radio indicated that Begin said Israel will not agree to international arbitration over the Tabah dispute, MA'ARIV said Begin's message announced Israel's acceptance of mutually agreed upon arbitration.

According to Jerusalem radio, Begin also told Mubarak that the IDF should be praised for its restraint in the occupied territories and that Jordan and Syria have no moral right to appeal to the UN Security Council over recent events there. Ambassador Moshe Sason, who delivered the message to Mubarak, explained to the Egyptian leader the motives for Israel's actions in the occupied territories, MA'ARIV noted. Sason subsequently conveyed a message from Mubarak to Begin, the radio said.

Egypt

After delivering a personal message from President Mubarak to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah described his meeting with Reagan as extremely friendly and fruitful, MENA reported. While regretting West Bank incidents as an obstacle to the process of trust-building advocated by Egypt, Abu Ghazalah expressed confidence that the United States and Egypt will successfully continue joint efforts to implement fully the Camp David accords. Earlier, Abu Ghazalah discussed bilateral relations with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other officials, MENA noted.

PLO

Under an agreement between the PLO and Syria the latter will provide backing to the resistance in the event of a large-scale "Zionist attack" on southern Lebanon, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas revealed in an interview reported by the 23 March London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. 'Abbas was replying to a question on whether PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's declaration that the Palestinians would be fighting with Syrian air cover and Soviet support was one of the results of Fatah's dialogue with Syria. 'Abbas also affirmed that the uprising in the occupied territories will intensify and contended that all borders with Israel should be open to the Palestinian resistance.

Lebanon

UNIFIL has begun operating an observation post in Beafort Cast, Jerusalem radio reported.

Syria

Three special units soldiers were killed on 27 March in an armed abush in the Aleppo area, the Voice of Lebanon said. In a search for Ahmad 'Aqlah, head of the Muslim Brotherhood group, special units stormed some houses in Aleppo and clashed with Brotherhood members, according to the radio. The radio also claimed that in apparent retaliation for the destruction of a Syrian customs post by an Iraqi patrol, Syrian authorities arrested about 100 Iraqi and Jordanian residents of Aleppo.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

All Iranian Army and guards corps units must maintain combat readiness for continuing the current offensive, liberating Iranian territory and securing the borders, a 29 March Joint Operational Center statement advised the troops over Tehran radio. Advancing Iranian forces captured Iraqi missile sites, acquiring a number of serviceable SAM-6 and surface-to-surface missiles, a military statement broadcast by Tehran radio announced. Iranian forces eliminated Iraqi troops from Pineh Heights, location of a rich oil reserve, and gained control of the Abu Gharib oil well, the statement said. It added that 14,795 prisoners had already been evacuated to the rear. Iran has downed 21 enemy aircraft since 21 March, according to a communique carried by Tehran radio. It added that by 29 March, 12,015 Iraqi prisoners had reached Tehran.

Iraqi forces have killed 1,018 Iranians in the Shush-Dezful sector and 138 in other sectors, while losing 29 of their own men, according to a communique carried by Baghdad radio. Four Iranian fighter planes and four helicopters were downed, while all Iraqi aircraft that raided enemy positions returned safely. The communique admitted the loss of 2 tanks while claiming that 35 enemy tanks were destroyed.

Iran

Iran will release approximately 15,000 prisoners between 21 March and 1 April in accordance with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's amnesty directive, Revolution Prosecutor Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi stated in an interview reported by Tehran radio.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT DENIES LEADING WEST BANK UPRISING

JN301031 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] Speaking to a group of foreign correspondents in Beirut today, Yasir 'Arafat said: No, I am not leading the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The whole matter is one of strong coordination between those inside and those outside [the occupied territories].

'Arafat said it is stupid of Israel to think that it can destroy the PLO's influence in the occupied territories. He added: No one can destroy the resistance of 4 million Palestinians.

Talking about the desire of some Palestinian factions to violate the cease-fire in southern Lebanon in the wake of events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 'Arafat said: I am confident of my ability to control the situation.

AL-MAJALLAH ON ISRAELI MILITARY OFFENSIVE PLANS

PM301101 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Mar-2 Apr 82 pp 17-19

[Muhammad Ma'tuq report: "AL-MAJALLAH Reveals Important Western Information Passed to 'Arafat"]

[Excerpts] On 11 March, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the military council consisting of senior Palestinian military commanders. They discussed the ways of closing the security gaps related to the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon in preparation for a serious confrontation with Israel, because a major Israeli attack is now a "100-percent" certainty.

One day earlier, on 10 March, a Palestinian official flew from his headquarters in a European capital to Beirut on an urgent mission. He conveyed to Yasir 'Arafat serious top-priority information. Citing well-informed American official sources, he reported that Israel is now determined to attack the Palestinian resistance bases in Lebanon and that the attack will "definitely" take place between 15 March and 25 April, the date for Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai and Sinai's return to Egyptian sovereignty after 15 years of occupation.

According to the American information received by the Palestinian official while 'Arafat was on a brief visit to East Berlin, the U.S. administration has exerted pressure on Israel to prevent such an operation but has failed to persuade Israel even to postpone the operation. U.S. officials believe the operation will have grave consequences for the peace process within the framework of the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The American information passed to 'Arafat also maintains that the Israeli attack will not be confined to the Palestinian resistance but will also be directed at the Syrian Army. The same sources say that the aim of the Israeli military offensive against the Palestinian resistance will be "to destroy it completely," so that it will no longer pose "any security threat" to Israel and so that the Palestinians will completely abandon the military option. The objective of the attack on the Syrian Army will be to "paralyze it completely."

The same sources also say that the purpose of this double blow will be to drive the Palestinian resistance and the Syrian forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Force out of Lebanon and force Syria to the negotiating table.

They add that Israel is contemplating a strike against Jordan "to punish Amman for the political stands it has taken," meaning Jordan's refusal to join the Camp David process on behalf of the Palestinians, and also to "hinder Jordan's rearmament plans," particularly in light of U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger's talks in Amman and his promise to study an unofficial Jordanian request for Hawk missiles and advanced F-15 aircraft.

The American information the Palestinian official conveyed to 'Arafat confirmed several earlier Western reports, but the PLO leader felt that the latest information eliminated all doubts. He therefore instructed Palestinian military commanders to take steps to strengthen Palestinian military preparations and coordinate with the Syrian and Lebanese allies. Accordingly, Palestinian officers visited Palestinian military positions in various areas in Lebanon and took urgent and intensive measures to overcome any shortcomings. The Palestinian resistance also held contacts with Damascus and Amman. Fatah Central Committee member Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] went to Damascus and met for 6 hours with President Hafiz al-Asad. Palestinian envoys conveyed a message from 'Arafat to King Husayn, who later called a meeting of senior military and security commanders to discuss the situation.

Western diplomats in Beirut had earlier given some PLO leaders information they had obtained through their contacts with leading figures in the Lebanese Front, which is led by the Phalangist Party. The information noted possible Israeli moves against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The information indicates that this time Israel will use a different method in its attack on southern Lebanon, where the Palestinians have strong military positions. Instead of invading the south from the direction of the Israeli-Lebanese border, as it did in 1978, it will invade from central Lebanon and move down toward the border. The starting point will be the coastal area between Ad-Damur and Khaldah, which is considered "Lebanon's weak spot" because of the minimal Palestinian and Syrian military presence there.

The Western diplomats who passed information to 'Arafat and his aides about the atmosphere in the Lebanese Front said that Israel raised the matter with this "front" and asked it to participate militarily in the operation to make the battle appear to be a domestic one between the forces of "the Lebanese Front and Israel" on one side and the forces of the Palestinian resistance and its Syrian and Lebanese allies on the other, not as a new Israeli invasion and strike against the resistance and the Syrian Army as a reward to the extremist settlers for evacuating Sinai prior to handing it over to Egypt.

This information served to confirm the Israeli announcement -- categorically denied at the time by the Lebanese Front -- that more than one meeting was held between Israeli Defense Minister Sharon and "Lebanese forces" Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil near the port of Juniyah north of Beirut.

According to information supplied by Western diplomats, most members of the command of this "front" rejected Israel's call for participation in this operation on the basis that the "front" had adopted a secret decision not to participate in an Israeli military attack against the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. The diplomats quote one of the command members in favor of adhering to that secret decision as saying that a violation of the decision through participation with Israel in an attack on the resistance and the Syrian Army would be risky and would not be politically or militarily beneficial to the "front" in the long run, because the Israeli invasion would only last a few days, after which Israel would withdraw under international pressure, leaving the entire burden of military confrontation on the shoulders of the "Lebanese forces." Furthermore, such a step would isolate the Phalangists and destroy their image in the Arab world. The Phalangists have been trying to improve this image by committing themselves to implementing some of the decisions of the Arab Followup Committee consisting of Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Arab League.

Still, that same Lebanese Front command member said the reservations that he and some of his colleagues advanced regarding the Israeli offer may not prevent Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the "Lebanese forces," from taking a unilateral decision to plunge his forces into the battle alongside Israel.

MAHMUD 'ABBAS ON RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, JORDAN

PM291443 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Mar 82 p 2

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau report: "Abu Mazin says Arab borders should be open to the Palestinian resistance"]

[Text] [PLO Executive Committee member and Fatah Central Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas -- Abu Mazin -- has stated that all Arab borders with Israel should be open to the Palestinian and Arab resistance. The Arabs, he said, should not let Israel live in peace when it is daily offending Arab dignity and denying the Arab nation all its rights.

Abu Mazin revealed that, under an agreement between Syria and the resistance, Syria will provide backing for the resistance in the event of a large-scale Zionist attack on southern Lebanon. He also said that the Egyptian president's refusal to visit Jerusalem is a positive stance but does not warrant forgiveness for overall Egyptian policy.

Abu Mazin urged Arab states to put their differences aside and devote their efforts to the central Arab cause and to supporting the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Golan Heights. He emphasized that on the whole Arab differences are minor compared with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's correspondent in Abu Dhabi yesterday, Abu Mazin said the great popular uprising that began in the occupied territory, including the Golan Heights, when the Al-Birah Municipal Council was dissolved constituted a firm answer to the undeclared annexation of the West Bank -- as in the case of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights -- and an expression of the people's wrath toward Israeli policy in the occupied homeland. Abu Mazin affirmed that the uprising in the occupied territory will intensify and that clashes with occupation forces will increase. He warned that the Zionist enemy is planning to overrun southern Lebanon despite the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces' adherence to the cease-fire. Israel, he said, is now looking for pretexts to storm the south and exploit the bad Arab state of affairs. He added that the Palestinian revolution had hoped for a strong Arab stand in support of the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces.

Abu Mazin described Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem as a positive stance, adding: However, we should view the matter not from one angle but as a whole on the basis of the overall Egyptian policy which began under As-Sadat and is still continuing. Much as we consider this stance to be positive we cannot forgive the overall Egyptian policy. It is not merely a question of not visiting Jerusalem. There are basic and central issues on which there should be a clear stand.

On the dialogue between Syria and Fatah, he said that relations between Fatah and Syria are special and should develop continuously. These relations require reassessment and deepening every now and then.

On 'Arafat's declaration that the Palestinian revolution will fight with Syrian air cover and Soviet support and whether this was one of the results of the dialogue with Syria, Abu Mazin revealed that there is an agreement between the resistance and Syria under which Syria would give backing to the resistance if the Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon is expanded. He added: It is also known that the Soviets support us politically and militarily. Ask if there has been any new shift in this respect, Abu Mazin said there will be a new shift within the framework of the current dialogue with Syria.

He condemned the meeting of the Political Bureau of the Council of Europe scheduled to be held in Arab Jeruslaem in May because this meeting is tantamount to European recognition of the Zionist occupation and annexation of Arab Jerusalem. He urged the Arab states to impose sanctions against the states that attend the meeting in accordance with the Arab Summit resolutions and Jerusalem Committee resolutions. He emphasized that a state which attends the meeting should be regarded in the same light as a state which opens an embassy in Arab Jerusalem.

Answering a question about the parallel and harmonious Jordanian and Palestinian attitudes toward the village leagues created by the Zionist enemy, the popular uprising in the occupied territory and its effect on the dialogue between the PLO and Jordan and the work of the Committee for the Consolidation of Steadfastness in the occupied territory, Abu Mazin stressed that the village leagues are harmful not only to Jordan and the PLO but also to the entire Palestinian cause as a whole. He added that it is not surprising that Jordan has adopted this position in accordance with the Rabat summit resolutions and Jordan's direct responsibility for the interests of the Palestinian people in the West Bank. The Jordanian attitude, he said, is parallel to the PLO attitude.

He affirmed that the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Consolidation of Steadfastness in the occupied homeland is playing its role to the full within the limits of its resources, to the value of $150 million a year, derived from the Arab aid approved during the Baghdad summit conference.

On Palestinian-Iranian relations, Abu Mazin said that the PLO position on the Iraqi-Iranian war is consistent and has been made public. The PLO, he said, is against this war and is a member in the Islamic Good Offices Committee and the Nonaligned States Committee formed to bring an end to this war which is good for nobody in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Abu Mazin emphasized that an improvement in Iranian-Palestinian relations will never be at the expense of the PLO's relations with Iraq and the other Arab states.

PLO REACTION TO ASH-SHAWWA-LUNZ MEETING

JN291759 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa's meeting with Brig Gen Yosef Lunz, who heads the Civilian Administration of the Gaza district, has generated several reactions. Hamid abu Sittah, member of the PLO Executive Committee, today contacted our Damascus correspondent Lewis Faris and made the following comment on Ash-Shawwa's meeting with Lunz:

[Begin recording] Any cooperation or dealing whatsoever with the civilian administration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a crime against the Palestinian people and their revolution and cause. Such conduct is considered a deviation from Palestinian national unanimity, the decisions of the PLO Executive Committee and the decisions of the municipal and village councils in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL'S STATEMENT

GF281155 Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Report on statement by Ibrahim as-Subhi, GCC assistant secretary for political affairs, to QNA correspondent in Muscat -- no date given]

[Text] Muscat, 28 Mar (QNA) -- Ibrahim as-Subhi, GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs, has announced that the GCC Secretariat will call for a GCC information ministers meeting in September to put forward a GCC information policy and strategy.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Muscat, he said: The GCC Secretariat is preparing a paper that will contain all views on how GCC information cooperation will work. It has been suggested that the GCC education and health ministers and then other ministers meet to lay down the bases for cooperation and coordination in their respective fields among the member countries. The Secretariat is currently preparing a timetable for these meetings. A committee exists to put forward views on a collective security agreement. The committee will meet in Bahrain on 19 April. The directors of the committees of immigration and transport and labor will meet in Oman on 26 April.

He continued: There is also a call to hold a GCC labor and social affairs ministers' meeting to discuss foreign labor, emigration and the foreign influx in the GCC countries and to hold a practical discussion and put down unified bases for foreign immigration and labor issues.

On the resolutions and the recommendations of the GCC countries on sabotage activities in the region, Ibrahim as-Subhi said: This issue was discussed in many conferences and meetings. A number of issues must be clarified. The Gulf region is subject to designs and threats hovering over it. Not only do sabotage plots and groups pose evil for it, but there are also parties who do not want the Gulf to enjoy stability and security. The GCC countries are aware of this and are therefore taking all security precautions. They have started to sign bilateral security agreements such as the agreements which Saudi Arabia signed with Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE. Contacts are underway between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in this regard.

Mr as-Subhi said: Preparations are underway for a collective security agreement once a consensus is reached. This agreement will enhance security cooperation. Those who intend evil for this region will feel that it is firmly united.

Asked whether there is any difference between the bilateral security agreements and the collective security agreement, he said: A decision was made by the GCC interior ministers at their first meeting in Riyadh that the bilateral agreements which were signed are the minimum and that they could be a basis for a collective security agreement. This means that, in the absence of a collective agreement, there should be a minumum of coordination and cooperation. If a collective security agreement is reached, it will be a maximum measure for these countries. Bilateral agreements are temporary actions.

Answering a question on the nature of the threats to the region and on whether there is any GCC consensus on this issue, Mr as-Subhi said: We are agreed that there are threats and that these threats come from more than one direction. The sources of them and the way to avoid them have been defined.

It has been decided that the only way to stave off these threats is to depend on intrinsic strength and available GCC potentials and capabilities. Therefore, coordination and cooperation in more than one sphere are underway. In the field of economic cooperation, an economic agreement has been signed. In the security field, preparations are underway to conclude a collective security agreement. In the military field, a committee was formed after the second meeting of the GCC chiefs of staff held in Riyadh. This committee will study and implement all of the defense ministers' resolutions.

We are moving in more than one direction. These moves will ultimately help us to depend on ourselves and will enable us to stave off these threats. Regarding the military field, there are two committees. One visited Oman in December and the other visited Bahrain. The first GCC summit formed the first committee and dispatched it to Oman to assess the threats to Oman and to provide support that would enable Oman to depend on itself.

Regarding Bahrain, the GCC defense ministers made a decision after they found out that there is an Achilles' heel in some GCC countries, including Bahrain. It was decided that there is a need to assess military potential, and the ministers discussed what the GCC countries should offer to Bahrain. The two committees prepared reports on financial needs, which are currently being studied. The reports will be handed over to the Supreme Council for adoption of appropriate resolutions.

Answering a question on published reports that the GCC countries have agreed to allot money to Oman for arms purchases, he said: I regret that there are many parties that do not look for facts when they publish reports on the GCC countries. We say that these reports do not serve the general good at all. The GCC countries have not allotted any money. A report has been prepared on Oman's aid requirements and it was decided that the committee would visit Oman again to study its financial requirements. Initial financial requirements are not yet known. Once they are known, this issue will be handed over to the Supreme Council because it was the council that organized the committee. Likewise, Bahrain's financial requirements are not known and the two final reports will be presented to the ministerial council in its meeting next June. Mr as-Subhi said: Another committee will review the defense ministers' resolutions. This committee is chaired by Saudi Brig Gen Yusuf al-Madani who is formulating its visions and who will then study the financial needs.

On whether there is an intention to establish a military force or a unified military unit like the Rapid Deployment Force to counter any sudden threats against the region, he said: We are not like those countries that possess immense potential and energies. However, this does not mean there will be no formal cooperation among these countries to stave off threats. These countries are resolute on this. This was one of the points discussed during the meetings of the Chiefs of Staff, but, so far, there is no plan to form such a force.

Answering a question on PDRY-Omani differences and the role the GCC countries have played to end these differences, Mr Ibrahim as-Subhi said: Mediation between Oman and the PDRY is an old issue and much has been reported on it. I want to say that Kuwait and the UAE have been charged with resuming efforts to achieve good will between them. They will resume these efforts before the fourth session of the GCC Ministerial Council, which will be held in June. The region will witness a new move in this direction during the next stage.

On the issue of extending oil pipelines from the GCC countries to Oman, in order to reexport oil safely, he noted that this issue was on the agenda of the third session of the ministerial council. He added that it was actually discussed and welcomed. Moreover, a decision was adopted calling for referring this issue to the petroleum ministers for discussion and review of its economic benefits.

Answering a question on whether the economic agreement signed among the GCC countries was a substitute for establisning a Gulf common market which was discussed earlier, and whether there is an inclination to have a uniform Gulf currency, the GCC assistant secretary general noted that the details of economic affairs are the concern of the GCC secretary general assistant for economic affairs. As for the economic agreement, which provided for a large number of committees to be formed to ensure its implementation, he said: After it has been fully implemented, it will lead to the creation of a Gulf common market. He pointed out that this agreement is transitional. Moreover, all agreements that will be signed among the GCC countries will ultimately lead to Gulf unity and Gulf convergence. He added that the issue of uniform currency is subject to discussion within the economic framework.

Answering a question on the role of the GCC in healing the Arab rift and improving the Arab atmosphere, and on the GCC role, through Oman, in the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations, Mr as-Subhi said the GCC did not ask Oman to play this role. As for the return of Egypt to Arab ranks, he pointed out that this cannot be done through one country or group of countries because all the Arab brothers will welcome an Egyptian decision to return to the Arab fold. They will be pleased. They look forward to Egypt's return to Arab ranks and nobody can belittle Egypt's capabilities, both economic and political. He added that if the GCC is asked to play a role in this, it will not hestitate to do so. Furthermore, Oman will welcome any role it is asked to play. He pointed out that the statements made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak when he assumed power in Egypt are promising and we still wait for the 25th of April. He stressed that the GCC countries are directed toward healing the rift, ending differences and unifying the Arab countries in opinion and rank. He added that if the GCC countries can make use of confidence, which is the bridge on which Arab relations pass, and make use of the good relations they have with the Arab and other countries of the world, they will not hesitate to do so. He added that if the GCC countries are capable of restoring Egypt to the Arab ranks, then this role will have an effect on brushing aside differences, healing rifts and restoring unified ranks and a unified opinion to all the Arab countries.

Asked about his view concerning the process of oppression and terrorism against the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories by the authorities of the Israeli occupation, Mr Ibrahim as-Subhi said that the GCC states sharply denounce and oppose strongly the campaign of oppression and terrorism that the Zionist authorities in the occupied Arab territories are launching. He said it is regrettable that we Arabs see our brothers confront terrorism by throwing stones at the enemy's tanks and armored vehicles and see Arab blood being shed on Arab land every day. He then asked: "What is it that we Arabs can do?" Mr as-Subhi added: "Going to the United Nations and demanding the Security Council convene is good and desirable, but we must make a move which cannot be achieved by statements and prayers alone. Almighty God said 'and say work,' hence, with work we can achieve what we look for. However, no good will come out of this fragmentation that we see and these differences. The question to be asked now is what comes after this terrorism.

Perhaps this is a prelude to the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza as we can see Israel today seizing one foot of territory after another while we make no move at all. This is a regrettable fact that I mention in my capacity as an Arab citizen.

Mr as-Subhi said: "We, the GCC states, have stood by our Arab brothers in the occupied Arab territories. We urge all Arab, regional and international organizations to denounce this aggression, voice their opinions and make their decision quickly and frankly. We urge these organizations to contact countries that may have relations with Israel and that may be able to exploit this relationship in order to pressure Israel and influence it to cease such actions."

Concerning his opinion on the return of Sinai to Egypt on 25 April, the assistant secretary general of the GCC said: "This pleases us all. We in the GCC states and all Arabs welcome the return of even one single foot of Arab territory. We hope that this will be a step toward restorating the rest of the occupied Arab territories. We also hope that Egypt will be able to convince Israel that living in peace with its neighboring states can only be achieved through peaceful means and via an open and honorable dialogue with the parties concerned. We also hope that Egypt can convince Israel of the necessity of the Palestinians' return and the restoration of their full legitimate rights which are represented in their return to their land and the establishment of their state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. These rights cannot be denied by anyone after being approved by world public opinion.

Concerning the Arab peace plan that was proposed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr as-Subhi said: "The Arab states must now adopt this plan and understand it well. This plan is the minimum that can be agreed upon." He indicated that the plan will be submitted for discussion and dialogue within the Arab group until the group is able to unanimously agree on an integral Arab plan that would then be presented to world public opinion.

He added: "The world is now waiting for an initiative from us because as we talk about a solution we must offer one and see what the world's stand is -- whether it will accept the solution or not. There has to be a dialogue between us and world public opinion because adopting a negative stand will not get us anywhere.

Commenting on the Iraqi-Iranian war and the role of the GCC and the current efforts to end this war, Mr as-Subhi said: The GCC played a role in reviving current international mediation such as the UN mediation. He indicated that there was an agreement among the GCC states to push forward the Islamic mediation being made by the Islamic Conference Organization. He added that some of the GCC member states still maintain good relations with Iran and can utilize this relationship by contacting Iran and convincing it that there is no way to avoid extending the area of the war and escaping danger except by sitting around one table where each can voice his opinion. We must reserve every bullet and every single drop of blood for our confrontation with the Arabs' real enemies.

Concerning the current situation in Lebanon, the GCC assistant secretary general noted the efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to end the conflict in Lebanon. He then expressed the hope that a formula for mutual understanding among the parties concerned would soon be reached to stop the bloodshed and return the situation there to normal.

KUWAIT

EQUATORIAL GUINEAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN KUWAIT

LD280836 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0809 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 28 Mar (KUNA) -- The president of Equatorial Guinea, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, arrived in Kuwait today on an official visit.

Meets With Amir

LD290936 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0923 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Mar (KUNA) -- The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, held official talks today with his guest, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. The talks centered on bilateral relations and the means of developing them and Arab-African relations.

Concludes Visit

LD300828 Kuwait KUNA in English 0805 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Mar (KUNA) -- President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea today ended his 3-day official visit and left Kuwait. During the visit President Mbasogo had talks with the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, concerning bilateral relations and means for consolidating them and concerning Arab-African relations.

Press Statement

LD301102 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Mar 82

["Press statement" issued on 30 March in Kuwait on visit to Kuwait by Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea]

[Text] In response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, paid an official visit to the State of Kuwait 28-30 March 1982.

During his visit, the president was accompanied by the foreign minister and a number of ministers and senior officials of the Government of Equatorial Guinea. The honored guest and the accompanying delegation were received with hospitality, reflecting the good relations between the two countries and their two friendly peoples.

Official talks between the two heads of state took place in a cordial atmosphere. A number of senior officials on both sides took part. The talks dealt with relations between the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the State of Kuwait, Arab-African relations and the current international situation. In the course of their review of bilateral relations, they noted with satisfaction the increasing development of cooperation between them. They expressed their determination to continue to develop these relations in various spheres.

The possible participation of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development in financing some development projects was discussed during this visit. They also reviewed the most important current international issues of mutual interest, including the Palestinian question and the situation in the Middle East.

The heads of state expressed their satisfaction with the good results of this visit. They stressed the need to continue meetings among officials in both countries.

President Obiang Mbasogo expressed his appreciation for the hospitality and the welcome he and the accompanying delegation received in Kuwait. He extended an invitation to his highness the amir to pay an official visit to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. His highness gratefully accepted the invitation, the date of which is to be fixed later.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD FORESEES END TO WORLD OIL GLUT

LD291112 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Mar (KUNA) -- Saudi Arbian Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has predicted that the world oil glut was "likely to end in two or three months" and added that Saudi Arabia, the largest oil producer, has decided to cut down oil production in a bid to stabilise the world oil market.

In an exclusive interview published Monday by a Kuwaiti English language daily newspaper, Prince Fahd reiterated the Saudi Arabian policy to increase oil prices gradually saying that "continuous or sudden increase in oil prices" will make the industrial countries suffer.

"We do not want to create or take advantage of such a situation, he added.

However, he said, Saudi Arabia equally supported the interests of other oil producing countries and added that the Saudi Government had been refusing to sell oil to such companies who wanted to abandon their original suppliers.

Referring to the creation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Prince Fahd said that common interest has made the GCC "a good and viable economic unit".

"A strong GCC can very well face any possible outside threat", Prince Fahd added.

He said he would visit Kuwait in the near future to meet the officials and the people in this country.

CROWN PRINCE DISCUSSES NEW STATE SYSTEM

GF300740 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text of Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, editor in chief of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, published jointly by 'UKAZ and AL-JAZIRAH; "somewhere in the Saudi desert," no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] Why are you here at a time when Arab concerns are numerous and grave?

[Answer] Yes, the concerns are numerous. However, there is a need to be far away from the din in order to have a clear vision. There are some issues in the kingdom on which he can decide, and there are issues that require collective decisions. By these I mean general Arab issues. There are difficult and confusing issues that require time to resolve. We proposed the eight-point Saudi plan as a unified Arab ideology. A controversy arose over it while the world was awaiting it as an opinion on which the Arabs would agree and would defend collectively. Some Arabs had a different opinion. Naturally, we are concerned about preserving Saudi national feelings from injury.

At the Fes summit and when confusion arose, I asked that the plan be withdrawn. Some people suggested keeping it on the agenda because it had become an Arab project. Thus, it is still on the agenda.

I am here to rest. Yet it is only an attempt because I have the plan for the state budget and the figures require concentration and patience. Besides, the budget will be followed by the plan for the basic system of government or the consultative council. The committee charged with preparing it has finished it and it is before me for final study. I will hand it over to his majesty the king. It will be announced 2 months after the budget, God willing, and after gaining royal approval.

[Question] Your Highness, some people believe talk on the consultative council has lasted too long.

[Answer] Planning for the future sometimes conflicts with the reality of practical facts, particularly when you want to fulfill a dream at record speed. Yes, this dream was in the mind of King Faysal, God's mercy be upon him. It was delayed. It was really delayed after we announced the confirmation of the idea. Nevertheless, when there is a desire to steer things in the correct direction and to make the idea embrace all that is required, the time factor is not important.

Society in Saudi Arabia differs from other societies. The issue is not of abundant money through which we will have only a material civilization. Saudi society is being shared through the development of its national wealth in various spheres, not only material but social and developmental ones, and their balance, an accurate balance that requires continuous patience and quiet thinking to have better solutions. Many times democratic countries whose societies reached a certain awareness make mistakes in their collective political participation. Some democracies bring to power leaders whom they discover later to be not the ones they needed. Therefore, we wanted a comprehensive plan for the consultative council with due regard for the nature of Saudi society while emphasizing the fact that no ruler can deny the importance of counseling and collective participation in the responsibility through a selected elite who will be competent whether through experience or through qualification in studies. This elite will defend its resolutions for the people.

What do the people need? We know they need to preserve their national wealth and to have it used properly. This is clear through announced budgets. The people then need political decisions that preserve their entity and national sovereignty.

Any ruler who believes he can make decisions without consultation is suffering from arrogance, a characteristic which the Saudi system rejects. It is enough that the leadership is open to everyone who has opinions. Why shouldn't we in the future welcome a highly efficient elite who would study how to make the proper decisions? Important is that the way this elite is selected is in harmony with the nature of Saudi society. As I have told you, our society is now living amid social and civil development.

[Question] Your Highness the Crown Prince, talk about Saudi Arabia abroad seems to contend that the oil revenues are not being used properly.

[Answer] Those talking from afar should come to our country to see the network of highways, housing projects and production plans. We used to be silent. Others do not know about projects here until they are finished. The nature of society here differs from other societies. We have a network of highways which have penetrated mountains. These highways connect the kingdom's cities and borders. These roads are superhighways. The principal Saudi cities are a huge workshop for constructing major installations, roads and hospitals.

Immense amounts of money have been spent on the homeland and on the Saudi citizen in a way that inspires pride in others besides me. Consider the money being spent on housing projects. We are the only country in the world which holds shares of income-producing companies. Once these companies start production, their shares are transferred to the laborers who will determine their initial value, and not the market rate, through the profits of these companies over a long period of time and without interest. The Saudi government implements many agricultural projects. There are unlimited facilities. The kingdom's production of grain has reached 400,000 tons. We used to import 600,000 tons per year. Production of grain that was once 36,000 tons has reached this figure. In 3 years, we will be self-sufficient.

We extend loans to and aid these production projects. They are profitable and the loans are settled without any difficulties because they are profitable. Those who talk about Saudi Arabia from afar should visit the city of Al-Kharj to see that we are using the most advanced agricultural and production technology. The Saudis involved in local production projects have increased in number so that graduates of higher institutes are now working in agricultural projects and other production projects because they are profitable and government-sponsored and because they are given facilities by our national wealth.

Although oil is an important source of wealth, we must create an intrinsic production efficiency in food and the light consumer industry.

[Question] Your Highness the Prince, where is the oil policy heading? What about reports that you are starving the people in the Gulf and the peoples of oil-producing countries?

[Answer] We have limited oil production to 7 million barrels per day although Saudi oil capacity can reach 11 million barrels. After consulting our studies, we decided to lower production because lower prices will have unacceptable effects. The kingdom's policy is to increase prices at reasonable rates and over a reasonable period of time in order not to be internationally misunderstood, which could have grave repercussions on producer and consumer.

Our opinion is based on many considerations that we fully understand; we also understand what has happened in one particular case. The consumer is seeking his interest and thus he is fighting to lower consumption. The consumer is haunted by fears of a continued rise in prices over a short period of time. Such a measure would naturally affect economic projections for production projects in the industrialized countries to the extent that it would be difficult to determine the cost, which I want to emphasize. [sentence as heard] We did not exploit the situation. We have rejected offers by companies which deal with Arab producing countries. We asked them to return to the countries they are dealing with. We want to take into account some dealings and their real dimensions: that oil is important to the producer and consumer and that the relationship is governed by reason and wisdom when prices are set in order not to incur damages.

The world economy is ultimately a network of intermingled positive and negative interests which are common, whether we accept this fact or not. Just as we do not want our interests to be impaired, there are people who do not like their interests harmed. Anyway, according to our experts' estimates, the oil surplus will be over in 2 or 3 months.

[Question] Your Highness the Crown Prince, what has the GCC done so far?

[Answer] Logic is dominating the moves of this group. From the beginning, I favored the idea of linking the peoples' interests economically. This is what ultimately results in the the required political form. In Saudi Arabia, there are 3,000 producing projects and 800 projects underway. Why shouldn't these projects be owned by the peoples of the GCC countries? When agricultural projects achieve good and concrete results -- and indeed we have many projects of this kind -- they can bring about self-sufficiency for the GCC at least in some food products. Why shouldn't we study the issue of joint banks as long as they are connected through interests and as long as no one is harmed? There are many factors. Important is that the sons of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula feel they are a joint financial force and a common body of mutual interests.

Logic governs the GCC meetings. This is a source of happiness. It is important to implement things quickly and not to be slow. The financial condition of our countries is good and no one has ambitions toward another country. Our collective move is a strength for us against even foreign powers.

[Question] I have a question which I wanted to ask a long time ago: Why did you attend the Cancun conference in Mexico?

[Answer] You mean the North-South meeting. An invitation was delivered to Saudi Arabia. I felt I was representing not only my country. Attending this meeting were the leaders of the greatest countries of the world. As Arabs, we have the right to correct erroneous information about us. Figures prepared by Saudi Arabia and some Gulf countries were proposed as an aid to developing countries. They were astonishing figures. I felt the Arab citizen was represented by the Saudi delegation at a meeting of such a level. Why should we miss this chance for more Arab explanation?

An invitation was given to Saudi Arabia. Those who offered it were aware of this country's international importance and role. I was happy to attend for many reasons. One of these reasons is that I explained figures which would not have been submitted had Saudi Arabia not attended.

[Question] Your Highness the Crown Prince, will you visit Kuwait?

[Answer] Yes, I will visit Kuwait shortly, God willing. I will go not only to visit Kuwait as a country and to meet with officials, I will also meet with the Kuwaiti younger generation. I know this generation will closely study what is going on in Saudi political thinking. I have met with university students in Saudi Arabia with whom I had a direct dialogue. I was happy over that dialogue. The Kuwaiti younger generation is my second target. The basic structure of our societies is the ultimate foundation. Our burdens in this region are becoming greater and greater. We are optimistic and hopeful regarding prospects for the younger generation.

SIERRA LEONEAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN JIDDA

AB291220 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Summary from poor reception] "President Siaka Stevens, current chairman of ECOWAS, has arrived in Jidda on a 3-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At Jidda Airport, President Stevens was met by the governor of Mecca, Prince (missaudin 'Abd al-'Aziz), who carried a special message from Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud." "Sierra Leone's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Alhaji Sulayman Timbo, and his staff and representatives of Sierra Leonean students from Mecca and Jidda were also present at the airport. President Stevens was driven in a motorcade to the royal guest palace in Jidda."

Prior to his departure from Amman, Jordan, President Stevens visited the Jordan Royal Scientific Society. Accompanied by the crown prince, Dr Stevens and his entourage were received at the society headquarters and taken on a conducted tour by the organization's deputy director, Dr (Fatu Dabaseni). Dr (Dabaseni) outlined the problems and aspirations of the Royal Scientific Society, stressing the organization's emphasis on economic and social development. He cataloged the various projects being undertaken including those on solar energy for domestic purposes.

"President Stevens and King Husayn joined in a motorcade to the airport where he was seen off by the king. Before his departure, President Stevens inspected a guard of honor and shook hands with cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps present in Amman."

Meets With King Khalid

AB292054 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The Saudi Arabian Government decision to establish a diplomatic mission in Sierra Leone was today conveyed to President Siaka Stevens by Saudi Arabian King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud during their top-level discussions of international developments and bilateral cooperation at the Royal state palace in Riyadh. Also on bilateral cooperation, the two heads of state decided on concluding cooperation agreements on economic. social and scientific matters for the mutual benefit of their two countries. On international issues, President Stevens and King Khalid expressed grave concern over recent developments in the West Bank resulting from Israeli practices in that area.

President Stevens, who is current chairman of ECOWAS, was on the second day of his 3-day state visit to Saudi Arabia. In another engagement at the Riyadh Palace, Dr Stevens met Sierra Leone students studying at various institutions of learning in and around Riyadh. He informed them of the purpose of his visit and government efforts to develop the country. Informing the students of the country's dire need for middle-level manpower, the head of state urged them to choose areas of study and careers relevant to the developmental needs of Sierra Leone. He entreated them to comport themselves well bearing in mind that as unofficial ambassadors of their country any action of theirs would reflect on them and on Sierra Leone.

Thanking the president on behalf of his colleagues, Mr Ibrahim Bangura related how punctually they had followed the progress of the All People's Congress Government and commended the government for the rapid development it has effected in the country in the face of global difficulties. He promised that they would strive hard to complete their studies and return to make their own contributions to the national effort. The students were introduced to the president by Sierra Leone's ambassador to Saudi ARabia, Sulayman Baba Timbo. With the president at the top-level talks and the meeting with the students were the respective ministers of foreign affairs, development, education, commerce, Ambassador Timbo, bank governors, financial secretaries and Sylvester Taylor of Foreign Affairs.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD RECEIVES LETTER FROM ZHIVKOV

JN292104 Doha QNA in Arabic 2044 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Aden, 29 Mar (QNA) -- PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has received a letter from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov dealing with bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. Aden Radio said the Bulgarian ambassador to the PDRY conveyed the letter during his meeting with President 'Ali Nasir today.

ABU GHAZALAH CONTINUES VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Meets With Haig

NC291907 Cairo MENA in English 1840 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 29 Mar (MENA) -- Egyptian Defence Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said that he expressed to Secretary of State Alexander Haig this morning Egypt's concern about the current developments in the West Bank.

In a 75-minute meeting with Haig, Abu Ghazalah made a general review of the Middle East situation, including the steps being taken for Egypt to regain the last remaining part of Sinai by April 25.

Answering newsmen's questions, General Abu Ghazalah said, "Egypt is looking forward to peace and is committed to peace. We are discussing the points of difference to find peaceful solutions for them. I hope the situation in the West Bank will not affect the peace efforts."

Abu Ghazalah arrived in Washington on Friday carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Ronald Reagan. He is due to meet with President Reagan this afternoon to convey the message. Vice-President George Bush will take part in the meeting.

Meets With Reagan

NC300020 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2350 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 29 Mar (MENA) -- Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah tonight conveyed a personal message from President Husni Mubarak to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Following the 30-minute meeting, which was held in the oval office, Abu Ghazalah told reporters that his discussion with the U.S. President was extremely friendly and fruitful.

Abu Ghazalah described his visit to the United States as part of the continuous consultations between Egypt and the United States. He added that relations between the two countries reflect the close ties and deep friendship existing between the American and Egyptian peoples.

Abu Ghazalah, who met earlier today with U.S. Secretary of State Gen Alexander Haig for 1 and 1/2 hours, added that he exchanged views on bilateral relations with the U.S. President, secretary of state and senior officials. He said his discussions were characterized by similarity of views, common interests and strategic outlook.

Abu Ghazalah expressed his appreciation for the support the U.S. President manifested at all times. He also expressed his appreciation for what he described as President Reagan's determination to continue the relations of friendship between Egypt and the United States in all political, economic and military fields.

Abu Ghazalah said he discussed Middle East developments with President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig. He added that the peace process between Egypt and Israel is progressing and that the normalization of relations is progressing along its course and is growing steadily.

Abu Ghazalah said the final stage of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai is on schedule and that the peacekeeping forces are ready to assume their responsibilities and duties.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah affirmed that the situation in the West Bank and Gaza is of deep interest to Egypt and of interest to anybody who wants peace in the area. He said the grave deterioration of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza has spread tension and anxiety in the area and that it does not help the efforts aiming at realizing progress along the path of the comprehensive solution.

Abu Ghazalah added that these regrettable incidents are obviously an obstacle to the process of trust-building that Egypt is trying to establish and which he emphasized is necessary for encouraging the Palestinians to participate in the peace process.

Abu Ghazalah expressed his confidence that the United States and Egypt will successfully continue their joint efforts to fully implement the Camp David accords on peace and a comprehensive solution.

Answering a reporter's question, Abu Ghazalah said Israel does not plan to annex the West Bank.

Regarding the disagreement on certain border points, Abu Ghazalah said Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Foreign Minister Yithzaq Shamir are continuing their talks. He added that he is sure the difficulties will be surmounted.

Abu Ghazalah arrived in Washington on Friday and is expected to stay there until Tuesday. [days as received] He met today with General Haig; Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; and Senator John Tower, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Tomorrow, Abu Ghazalah will hold several meetings at the Pentagon with senior U.S. Defense Department officials.

MUBARAK CALLS MEETING OF TOP POLITICAL ADVISERS

NC292221 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) -- AL-AHRAM says that President Husni Mubarak has called for an expanded meeting of his senior political advisers on Wednesday to discuss developments and review results of last week's contacts in Washington and Tel Aviv.

In Tuesday's edition, AL-AHRAM says it was decided at the president's last expanded meeting with his advisers to dispatch Dr Usamah al-Baz to Tel Aviv with a message from President Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and to send Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah [to Washington] with another message from President Mubarak to President Ronald Reagan.

The paper adds that the expanded meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary and Director of the President's Office Dr Usamah al-Baz and Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, if he can conclude his current meetings in Washington.

AL-AHRAM further says that 'Ali will meet with U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton tomorrow to discuss issues pertaining to the outstanding points of disagreement between Egypt and Israel on the question of the border, the resumption of the autonomy discussions, deterioration of the situation in the West Bank and the importance of the continuation of the peace process and U.S. efforts to resume the autonomy discussions at the expert level in Washington.

Dr Butrus Ghali, who has postponed his departure for Khartoum until after the meeting, met with the U.S. charge d'affaires and discussed issues concerning the border. 'Ali met with Ambassador Fawzi al-Abrashi, who reviewed the results of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee mission which met in Beersheba, before leaving for Rafah today to discuss conditions there.

AL-AHRAM then says that President Husni Mubarak and his advisers will have before them several important reports and messages. They are:

Washington's reaction and the results of Abu Ghazalah's meetings in the American capital and 'Ali and Dr Ghali's meetings with the U.S. ambassador and the U.S. charge d'affaires.

Menahem Begin's message to President Husni Mubarak.

The messages the president received from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

Dr Ghali's reports on the meeting he held in Paris with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson.

The contacts Egypt is holding with representatives of most world capitals with a view to supporting peace and the continuation of the peace process.

AL-AHRAM EDITORIAL ON PEACE TREATY ANNIVERSARY

PM300843 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Peace Treaty Anniversary"]

[Text] Today is the third anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, which represents a historic event and an unparalleled occurrence in the history of international relations. It ended decades of war and 30 years of hatred in the Middle East. It was the fruit of the October war and of the peace initiative, which have gone down in the annals as significant landmarks in the area's history and by which Egypt proved its will for and ability to achieve equitable and lasting peace.

If the peace treaty, which received strong worldwide support, was a significant historical landmark, it has been implemented thanks to the respect paid to its provisions by the two sides and to the U.S. role as a full partner in all stages of negotiations leading to it. The next month will witness the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Egyptian territory up to the international borders, and autonomy negotiations will continue in order to secure just principles for the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate and national rights. Egypt welcomes any European or Arab effort in this regard.

Despite the attempts by certain quarters to cast doubt on this treaty, the passage of time has proved and continues to prove that when Egypt chose the path of peace it was more aware than others of the movement of history, more understanding of the balances of power and changes in the 20th century, and more caring with respect to national, Palestinian and Arab interests.

UN DELEGATE TO ATTEND NONALIGNED MEETING

NC291912 Cairo MENA in English 1830 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) -- Egypt's permanent UN delegate, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, arrived here today from New York for consultations before leaving for Kuwait to represent his country at the session of the non-alignment coordination office.

He will consult with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

Kuwait had invited the non-aligned countries to take part in the coordination office session which opens on Monday and lasts until April 8.

RABAT NOTES GHALI REJECTION OF SDAR ADMISSION

LD271510 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, 27 Mar (MAP) -- "We have not recognized the SDAR, we are against its presence within the OAU and we consider its presence a negative element that endangers African unity and which will create extremely dangerous precedents," stated the Egyptian state minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Butrus Ghali in an interview published Friday by the daily of Dakar LE SOLEIL. Explaining his country's reaction in Addis Ababa after the deed of the OAU secretary general, the emissary of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the heads of state in Guinea and of Senegal precised that the Egyptian diplomacy consisted "in participating actively to the meeting and in showing up the irregularities inside."

During the first meeting, he said, we had protested against the presence of the SDAR and we had asked for the postponement of the conference and during the last meeting: "It was necessary to have someone to say that there was no quorum and we had the only delegate who told it openly," said the Egyptian minister. Underlined the importance of the consultations he is to have with two leaders of Africa and which, he said, will allow the elaboration of a plan of action that would help find a solution to this serious problem which threatens African dignity and the continent's solidarity." [as received]

The Egyptian state minister noted on the other hand that Africa can contribute in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem and affirmed that there will be no annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

OFFICERS ACQUITTED OF COUP ATTEMPT CHARGES

PM291549 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Mar 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report: "Fourteen Officers Accused of Attempting To Overthrow the Government Acquitted"]

[Excerpt] Cairo -- ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the higher military tribunal has pronounced its verdict in the case of Maj 'Islam al-Qamari and 13 other officers -- mostly from the Artillery Corps -- who were accused of attempting to overthrow the regime. The sentences were passed on 24 March. Major al-Qamari has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for absconding from military service and possessing an unlicensed rifle. The other defendants have been acquitted.

NATIONAL FRONT SECRETARY SENDS CABLE TO 'ARAFAT

NC281146 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1052 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Cable from Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, secretary general of the Egyptian National Front, to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat]

[Text] Struggling Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the revolution forces:

We are following with pride the news of the enormous popular uprising which our occupied territory is witnessing against occupation and usurpation and which aims at frustrating all the solutions and schemes which the treasonous Camp David treaty has for the future of Palestine -- people, cause and revolution.

From our struggling position in the Egyptian National Front we grasp the hands of the dedicated sons of Palestine, under your triumphant leadership, as they are shaping a new dawn for Palestine and their Arab nation. We give them our pledge that the Egyptian people will always be on their side against all attempts to jeopardize their legitimate rights and their genuine struggle.

In the uprising of our great people in the occupied territory, we see a creative integration with the struggle of Egypt of Arabism, the Egypt of 'Abd an-Nasir, against Camp David in the form of agreements, as a course and as a policy. We reemphasize that the coming days in Egypt will be full of astounding surprises for the enemies of Egypt, Palestine and the Arab nation.

We wish immortality for the martyrs of the uprising and for all the martyrs of our valiant Palestinian revolution and victory for free Arab Palestine.

Signed: Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, secretary general of the Egyptian National Front

BRIEFS

CSSR DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER -- Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Fu'ad Hashim, minister of economy and foreign trade, discussed here today with the visiting deputy minister of trade in Czechoslovakia the measures to be taken to prepare for the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Czech economic committee due to be held in Prague later next month to sign the protocol of trade exchange between the two countries. They also examined means of consolidating economic relations and trade exchange between the two countries. The volume of trade exchange amounted to $121 million in 1981, of which $22 million was for the Egyptian exports, mainly cotton, citrus and rice, and $99 million for the Czech imports, mainly the mineral products, irrigation equipment and fertilizers. The Czech official arrived here on March 15 to attend the inauguration of Cario International Fair. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1540 GMT 20 Mar 82 NC]

SADDAM HUSAYN REITERATES CEASE-FIRE CALL

JN271153 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Colombo, 27 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has once again called for a cease-fire and for the settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian dispute through peaceful means that will safeguard legitimate, just and historic rights.

In a message to the special Islamic seminar on the universality of Islam which opened yesterday in Colombo, the president said that when Iraq reaffirms its response to the peace initiatives, calls for finding facts and defining the party which began the aggression, it proceeds from absolute confidence in itself, from its faith in the principles of Islam and the commitment to the Nonaligned Movement's objectives. The president stressed that the Arab nation is the nation of Islam and that no party can impose its tutelage on this nation in the name of Islam. He added that the Arab nation will always remain the vanguard in bearing Islam's mission and the banner of justice in the world at large.

President Saddam Husayn reiterated that Iraq does not covet Iranian territory and does not wish to interfere in its domestic affairs. He said: We cannot allow them to interfere in our affairs, harm our dignity or export their ideology to our lofty and capable Iraq. In his message, which was read by Awqaf Minister 'Abd Alghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, President Saddam Husayn expressed regret over Iran's practices toward Islam. He added: It grieves us to see Islam, which is an exemplary formula for an ethical way of life and the solution to many of the problems that this world is facing, subjected to a campaign of distortion and defamation, which is no secret to anyone.

COLOMBO ISLAMIC SEMINAR TO MEDIATE IN GULF WAR

JN281702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Colombo, 28 Mar (INA) -- M. H. Mohamed, minister of transport and Islamic affairs [title as received], announced that both Iraq and Iran today agreed to receive a delegation of the international seminar on the universality of Islam now convening in Colombo. At a press conference here today attended by Sri Lanka Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Carder Shahul Hameed, the minister of transport and Islamic affairs said that the purpose of the proposed visit is to discuss the Iraqi-Iranian war. The proposal to send a delegation to Iraq and Iran was made by a member of the Sri Lanka delegation when he addressed the seminar yesterday.

RAMADAN ADDRESSES SPECIAL TASK BRIGADE FIGHTERS

JN281916 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, commander in chief of the Popular Army, has asserted that the Iraqi Armed Forces are still holding their positions deep inside Iranian territory despite the huge assistance the Iranian forces are receiving from the imperialist and Zionist circles as well as from Arab traitors. During his visit to a special task brigade training camp today, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the best and decisive reply to abort the enemy counterattacks is to step up the fighters' preparedness, to benefit from training courses and to comply with military directions. He asserted that the recent Iranian counterattacks were desperate.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the special task brigade fighters, who had a prominent and honorable role during recent battles, have proved that they entertain a high spirit of sacrifice and martyrdom when confronting the Persian enemy. This has gripped the enemy although it sent thousands of its troops to a loosing battle. He asserted the special task brigades' victories over the Persian enemy and the severe blows they dealt to the enemy ranks -- despite the huge assistance the enemy is receiving from the imperialists and Zionists as well as from the Arab traitors such as Hafiz al-Asad -- sincerely express the nobility of this nation and people in defending Arab sovereignty and dignity.

TANJUG INTERVIEWS ARMY CHIEF ON GULF WAR

LD291416 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1336 GMT 29 Mar 82

["Pool item"]

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (TANJUG) -- Iraq is ready to abandon at any time parts of the territory seized in the Iraqi-Iranian war provided the fundamental rights of Iraq are secured and guaranteed, the first deputy prime minister of Iraq, Taha Yasin Ramadan, has said in an interview to TANJUG. Iran, however, has not shown readiness for this, he added. Ramadan described the course of the latest operations in the Iraqi-Iranian war in terms of Iraq's capability of waging war regardless of its duration. The first deputy prime minister of Iraq is also the supreme commander of the Iraqi People's Army now numbering 400 soldiers. [number as received]

According to Ramadan, the seventh summit of the nonaligned, due in September in Baghdad, will be a fresh stimulus to the deepening and expansion of cooperation among non-aligned countries and, consequently, their independence. The deputy prime minister said that Iraq was investing significant efforts in preparations of the summit and would ensure all the facilities for its successful work.

Ramadan pointed out the contribution by a number of countries to the success of the summit and the confirmation of the authentic principles of the movement. Within this context he paid special tribute to Yugoslavia's engagement. Ramadan described as dangerous the big powers' unconcealed intention of establishing influence in some countries in the Non-Aligned Movement. This danger, holds Ramadan, can be removed only through the overall strengthening of the Movement of Non-Alignment and consistent implementation of its authentic principles. The first deputy prime minister of Iraq pointed to the need for non-aligned countries to invest new efforts in the struggle for the establishment of a new economic order.

OFFICIAL RAPS SYRIAN-IRANIAN COOPERATION

JN291107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA) -- A senior Iraqi official criticized Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Iran and the outcome of the visit. He said that this visit was of a conspiratorial, sabotage and Shu'ubist nature and aimed at creating military coordination and an anti-Iraqi front headed by Al-Asad and Khomeyni as well as the weak-willed who could join them. In an article published by ATH-THAWRAH today, Revolution Command Council secretary, Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, added that the visit also aimed at creating disturbances in the Arab Gulf countries, stepping up differences among the brothers in the two Yemens, destroying what is left of wounded Lebanon by freeing the saboteurs' hands there, antagonizing Jordan, humiliating and killing the honorable Syrian and Iranian peoples.

Al-'Abdallah pointed to several acts committed by the Syrian regime represented by Syrian-Persian Zionist coordination in the United Nations and other international forums against any Iraqi prominence, particularly since the Iraqis are prominent in all fields.

Al-Abdallah recalled the Syrian regime's cooperation with the Iranian and Zionist delegations to foil the election of Iraq to the chairmanship of the current session of the UN General Assembly.

The Iraqi official warned against the Syrian regime's blatant violation of all Arab, international and human conventions and norms. He said this regime's acts are completely contrary to these conventions and norms. The Syrian regime, he added, is helping a non-Arab country and one which is not a member of the Arab League or of the joint defense treaty, conspiring against Iraq and coordinating with the Iranian regime acts of sabotage carried out by the racist and sectarian Amal organization in Lebanon and attempting to overthrow the regime in Bahrain and other countries.

Al-'Abdallah added: Never in history have we witnessed such coordination between an Arab country, and a country harboring a grudge against the Arabs, against an Arab country which wants goodness, might and glory for the Arabs and Muslims. He explained that the Syrian regime was committing sinful heresy like the other heresies of Khomeyni, whose games, psychological complexes and strong connections with everything that is against the Arabs and Islam have been exposed. At the end of this article, Tariq al'Abdallad called for a unified objective Arab stand which will take to task the Damascus criminals for their treasonous acts inside and outside Syria.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 659

JN271734 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Communique No 659 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic army is waging sacred battle against the army of the criminal Khomeyni clique which, blinded by grudge and hatred, continues its aggression against our glorious nation and heroic people, whose brave army, aided by Almighty God, will crush all the enemy's desperate attacks as it did in the previous battles. The great Iraqi people will always hold their heads high. Their banner will always flutter high and their pure land will remain safe from the evil and aggression intended for it by the Khomeyni clique since the beginning of its aggression against Iraq in September 1980. The aggressors' banner will always be marked by the disgrace of defeat. The results of the battles in the Shush and Dezful sectors are as follows:

1. The fierce clashes and battles are still going on between our units and the enemy's units. The enemy continues to send reinforcements. Our brave units are confronting them, inflicting on them further losses in life and equipment. The known losses inflicted on the enemy only last night as counted by the competent authorities amounted to 1,563 dead, large numbers of wounded and captured, and 22 tanks, 14 armored personnel carriers, 21 vehicles and 6 guns destroyed. Our sacrifices: 38 martyrs and 5 tanks, 4 armored personnel carriers and 2 vehicles damaged. We will announce enemy losses and our sacrifices in today's battle in our subsequent communiques.

2. All day today, our fighter planes and helicopters fiercely attacked the enemy units and concentrations in the Shush and Dezful sectors, scoring direct and very effective hits, destroying large numbers of enemy tanks, vehicles and reinforcements and inflicting massive losses on enemy personnel and equipment. All our helicopters and fighter planes returned safely to base. Our antiaircraft defenses shot down an enemy helicopter and an enemy drone in the Shush and Dezful Sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 March 1982

Communique No 660

JN281758 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Communique No 660 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To fend off evil and aggression which are menacing our people, nation and beloved homeland and in complete readiness to offer sacrifices and martyrs, the sons of lofty Iraq will continue their just fight against the aggressor Khomeyni clique until it gives up its evil intrigue, expansionist designs and aggressive policy and until it recognizes our just, historic and legitimate rights. The following is the outcome of activities last night and today:

1. Our brave units continued to pound enemy units and concentrations in the Shush and Dezful sectors, inflicting further losses in life and equipment. The known enemy losses in front of our formations amount to 110 killed; a large number of wounded; and 13 tanks, 17 armored personnel carriers, 20 vehicles, 4 of which were carrying personnel; 5 guns, 1 excavator and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.
2. The eagles of our helicopters and fighter planes all day today carried out effective and painful raids on the enemy positions, formations and concentrations in the Shush and Dezful sectors, inflicting grave losses on its armored cars vehicles and personnel. Our ground units heard explosions and saw columns of fire rising in the enemy positions. All our helicopters and fighter planes returned safely to base. Three enemy helicopters were shot down by our antiaircraft defenses in the Shush-Dezful sector. The enemy helicopters were seen exploding in the air.
3. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd], killing 12 and destroying 1 vehicle.
4. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in front of our positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. Our units pounded the enemy concentration, killing seven.
5. Four were killed and one observation post destroyed in the Nowsud area.
6. Two were killed and one gun and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan area.
7. One vehicle was destroyed in the Bostan sector.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 135 killed; a large number of wounded; 3 helicopters downed; and 13 tanks, 17 armored personnel carriers, 22 vehicles, 6 guns, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts destroyed.

8. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: 28 martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: two tanks, four personnel carriers and three vehicles damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 March 1982

Communique No 661

JN291742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Communique No 661 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Armed with a solid will and an absolute faith in our just cause and in our inevitable victory over all attempts of evil and aggression, the Iraqi people and their hero army will remain a brandished sword in the face of those who covet Iraq's land and Arab land. Our valiant army will continue its just fighting to impose its full control of the situation in all the operation theaters.

It will wage the holy battles against the grudge-bearing Khomeyni clique until it gives up its designs and recognizes our legitimate rights. The following is the outcome of our armed forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Shush-Dezful sector: Our valiant armed forces continued to deal violent blows to enemy positions and units, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment. The known enemy losses in this sector amounted to 1,018 killed, and 35 tanks, 15 armored personnel carriers, 17 vehicles, 6 guns, 2 rocket launchers and 1 excavator destroyed.
2. Our helicopters and fighter planes continued to impose full control of the battle airspace. All day today our aircraft carried out daring and successful raids against enemy units, concentrations and positions in the Shush-Dezful sector, inflicting the gravest losses on its tanks, vehicles and positions. All our helicopters and fighter planes returned safely to base. Four enemy fighter planes were shot down today, two of which we downed in a dogfight over the Shush sector and the other two were downed over the Ahvaz area by our antiaircraft defenses. It was confirmed yesterday that four enemy helicopters were shot down over the Shush-Dezful sector by our antiaircraft defenses. All the enemy aircraft were seen exploding in the air and falling ablaze.
3. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy force in front of our positions in the Ahvaz area. Our unit pounded the enemy force, killing more than 100, wounding a large number and destroying 1 vehicle and 1 excavator.
4. Our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, killing 22.
5. Six were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
6. Five were killed and one armored personnel carrier destroyed in the Bostan sector.
7. Three were killed and one gun and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
8. Two were killed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to well over 1,156 killed; 8 aircraft downed; and 35 tanks, 16 armored personnel carriers, 18 vehicles, 7 guns, 2 rocket launchers, 2 excavators and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed.

9. Our sacrificies:

   A. In personnel: 29 martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: two tanks, four armored personnel carriers, nine vehicles, and five mortars damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 March 1982

THREE IRANIAN PHANTOMS SHOT DOWN 29 MAR

JN291145 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi forces today shot down three Iranian Phantom fighter planes. An Iraqi military source told INA at noon today that two were downed in a dogfight over Kuh-e Moshtaq in the southern sector of the battlefield. He added that the third plane was downed in the Ahvaz area by the Iraqi antiaircraft defenses in the same sector.

COMMENTATOR URGES ACTION AGAINST IRANIANS

GF301005 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, if the negative responses made by the mullahs in Tehran to proposals made by peace-loving Iraq and good-will delegations aimed at ending the war are compared with each other and studied carefully, it becomes obvious that whatever they have said is inconsistent and illogical.

In the past, the occupationist Khomeyni regime's main condition was that Iraq had to withdraw from Iran before a move could be made to settle border disputes between Iran and Iraq through peaceful means. Iraq's positive response to this condition and its (?willingness) to embark upon a stage-by-stage withdrawal from occupied Iranian territory to end the war are common knowledge to the heads of impartial states, representatives of good-will delegations and the people of the world. Meanwhile, world public opinion and particularly Sekou Toure, who is the head of the good-will delegation, have described the recent humane proposals put by Iraq, which is in a superior military position strategically and tactically, as sincere, this is common knowledge. However, shocked into silence by the peace proposals made on an international level -- that is by logical steps and proposals aimed at ending the war -- the Iranian rulers have at last exposed their antihuman nature which they have successfully been concealing to date.

Speaking languishingly and as if his voice came out of his nose, [word indistinct] Khomeyni said: One of our conditions for ending the war is that Iran must be paid for the damage it has suffered because of the war. Our second condition for ending the war is that since we are not fighting against the Iraqi people but against Saddam Husayn [words indistinct]. Therefore, our third condition for ending the war is that Saddam Husayn must commit suicide like Hitler.

In an effort to confirm his imam's remarks, Mullah Rafsanjani, who is the speaker of the Majlis of mullahs, said Iran had sufficient artillery, aircraft, tanks and complex military technology, forgetting in the meantime his regime's confessions about Iran's arms deals with Zionist Israel after the crash of the Argentinian plane carrying Israeli arms to Tehran. He said: Why should Iran spend billions on military equipment? We have a nation consisting of millions of people prepared to be martyrs. Let his [words indistinct] and hungry community defend Islam and us as well. Iranian people, it is indeed very said. In the eyes of the Rafsanjanis you are less than [words indistinct] and vermin.

Dear listeners, permit us to explain the deplorable situation that is threatening our region by putting forward a number of questions. Which of the two warring sides should pay compensation to the other when the war is ended? Who should be tried by an international court like the court at Nuremberg? (?And who are the fascists who should) commit suicide? These are the questions one should ask in order to reach the root of such matters. Which of the warring sides began the war? Who permitted this fratricide which has been shedding Muslim blood?

Dear listeners, in addition to Iraq, the progressive communities of the world and progressive parties and associations have also given reasonable and mostly logical answers to these questions, exposing the war criminals to the world a long time ago, in fact as of the first few days of the war.

It is crystal clear that this war serves the interests of rapacious U.S. imperialism, which is anchored in the Gulf, and the Zionist [word indistinct] which has settled in the northeast of the region. As for who has been threatening whom in the Iraq-Iran war, the progressive representatives of the struggling Iranian peoples and world public opinion believe that this deplorable war being waged on a line drawn by imperialism and Zionism is one which (?stems from) civil war in Iran and the Khomeyni regime's aspiration to occupy foreign land. This war of occupation has been caused by the dream of creating an Islamic empire -- an aspiration cherished by the chauvinist Iranian rulers who have responded with arms to the demand of the non-Persian peoples in Iran for their national rights and who have been interfering in the affairs of Iran's independent Muslim neighbors and organizing destructive raids on peace-loving Muslim Iraq, which is occupied with establishing [word indistinct]. Therefore, the Khomeyni style administration must be regarded as the side that started and escalated the Iraq-Iran war. Because of this it must be tried and sentenced by an international tribunal.

AL-JUMAYYIL COMMENTS ON AL-WAZZAN PRESS REMARKS

NC291829 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Commenting on Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's appeal to the commander of the Lebanese Forces to hand over security responsibility to the Lebanese state, Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: We were sincere when we asked the prime minister to have the state assume security responsibilities in our areas. We were not posturing, which is regrettably the prevailing method these days.

We know that Prime Minister al-Wazzan is also sincere in his call. However, it is not a matter of throwing the ball from one to the other. Once again, we affirm that we are prepared to withdraw from all areas if state forces take our place and are not just in the rear areas, while we stand alone, on the front line in the confrontation.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil added: If the party rejects the idea of stationing the army along the contact lines, how can the legal authority assume responsibility for security in our areas except for the contact lines? What will its task be when we have no internal security problem? If we withdraw from the contact lines, and the legal forces do not take our place, who will guarantee our safety and defend the citizen, his dignity and honor here?

We at the contact lines and elsewhere sincerely wish to give up everything concerning these lines to the state authority. We call on it to take over the positions constituting a confrontation line between us and the others. Then we can help it with all our strength and capabilities. However, to be asked to withdraw without the authority being able to fill the vacuum is a serious matter that exposes citizens to various dangers. This would be an extremely illogical and irresponsible thing to do.

FU'AD BUTRUS POSTPONES KHADDAM MEETING

NC291317 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has announced that his meeting tomorrow in Shtwrah with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has been postponed until the beginning of next week. It has been learned that the decision to postpone the meeting was made during a telephone exchange between them before noon today. The meeting has been postponed because Khaddam will be attending the Arab foreign ministers extraordinary meeting tomorrow. The Lebanese delegation will be led by Minister of State Joseph Abu Khatir.

GENERAL STRIKE CALLED TO MARK LAND DAY 30 MAR

NC300850 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] On the occasion of Land Day and in support of the uprising in the occupied territory, the National Movement, the Amal movement and the PLO have called for a general strike today in Beirut and in other Lebanese areas. They have also called for participation in demonstrations and in an international conference to be held in the UNESCO hall at 1500 today.

UAE AMBASSADOR LEAVES BEIRUT WITHOUT NOTICE

NC291339 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The UAE Embassy in Lebanon no longer has diplomats working there. Local employees are still working at the embassy. Ambassador 'Abd al-'Aziz ash-Shamisi left Beirut today without the embassy informing the Foreign Ministry about his unexpected departure. It is known that the UAE charge d'affaires and two embassy attaches left Beirut some time ago.

It should be noted here that of all Arab ambassadors in Lebanon, only the Moroccan and Algerian ambassadors and the head of the Libyan brotherhood bureau remain in the country.

LIBYAN DIPLOMAT HARASSED AT SYRIAN CHECKPOINT

NC291835 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Muhammad Khalifah, member of the Libyan brotherhood bureau in Lebanon, has been subjected to harassment and abusive language at a Syrian deterrent checkpoint on the 'Aramun road. This occurred despite the fact that he announced his official capacity and was riding in a diplomatic car.

HADDAD WARNS UNIFIL ON CASTLE POST, VISITS ISRAEL

NC300936 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] Yesterday's reports indicated that UN forces have renewed their presence in one of the observation posts at Beaufort Castle. The reports recalled that these forces left the post about 3 years ago because of artillery exchanges between combatants in the area.

Meanwhile, free Lebanon Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad has warned the UN forces that their presence in Beaufort Castle on the side of the swindlers [Palestinians] will not prevent free Lebanon artillery from shelling the castle if the swindlers open fire in the direction of free Lebanon Army positions.

Yesterday, Maj Sa'd Haddad was the guest of honor of Knesset President (Menahem Savidor) in Jerusalem. The free Lebanon commander expressed to his distinguished host his admiration for the unique democratic manner in which the discussions inside the Knesset are conducted.

SPECIAL UNITS CLASH WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

NC291400 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] According to new information received by the Voice of Lebanon, an armed ambush was laid the day before yesterday in the Aleppo area. Three soldiers of the Syrian special units who were riding in a Pugeot car were killed in this ambush.

In the Bab an-Nayrab locality in Aleppo, the special units stormed some houses to search for Ahmad 'Aqlah, head of the Muslim Brotherhood group, and clashed with Muslim Brotherhood members. A number of people were killed and wounded in these clashes. Residents were warned that the area would be shelled if they did not cooperate with the Syrian authorities in arresting [members of] the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Syrian authorities arrested about 100 Iraqis and Jordanians who have been living in Aleppo for a long time. It was said that this took place in retaliation for an Iraqi patrol's entry into the Syrian village of (Tallat Khushah) and the destruction of a customs guard post.

Other information received by the Voice of Lebanon says bulldozers are still removing buildings and rubble in Hamah, and that the residents are moving to other places out of fear of disease spreading in the city because of the bodies that are still under the rubble.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PDRY LEADER

JN291414 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 29 Mar (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The message, which deals with the general Arab situation and the exchange of views between the two leaders, was given to the president by the PDRY ambassador in Damascus during a meeting this afternoon.

PRESS STATEMENT ON BULGARIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

JN251843 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- A press statement was issued in Damascus today on the conclusion of the talks held by the delegation of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] headed by Comrade Dimitur Stanishev, Central Committee secretary, in Syria from 19 to 24 March 1982.

The BCP Central Committee delegation was received by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and Comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the party regional command and chairman of the Syrian-Bulgarian Friendship Society. The delegation also visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah and held talks with a delegation of the National Command of the Ba'th Party headed by Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the National Command and head of the party's foreign relations bureau.

During these talks, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the two sides had a fruitful exchange of information and opinions on the activities of both parties and the development of their friendly countries. A general review was also made of urgent issues in the international situation in general and the Middle East situation in particular. The representatives of both parties expressed their deep satisfaction with the strengthening ties of friendship between the Ba'th Party and the BCP and the developing cooperation between Syria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. They stressed their determination to take all necessary measures to further strengthen and develop relations between both parties in the interest of both friendly peoples and their common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

During their discussion of the current international situation, the two delegations indicated that the U.S. Government's activities against the People's Republic of Poland are contrary to the most fundamental bases of international relations and a direct violation of the UN Charter and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

During their discussion of the Middle East situation, the two delegations noted with great concern the further aggravation of the situation in the region due to Israel's continued aggressive and expansionist activity represented by its recent decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights. They also noted that the increased tension in the Middle East was the outcome of attempts by imperialism, Zionism and reaction to enforce the Camp David accords at any cost contrary to the basic interests of the Arab people. In this respect, the two delegations reasserted their condemnation of the Camp David accords and everything resulting from them.

The two delegations also condemned outright the negotiations taking place within the framework of the Camp David accords on what is termed administrative autonomy for the Palestinians, an autonomy that aims at entrenching Israeli occupation and depriving the Palestinian Arab people of their national rights. The two sides also condemned Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights and stressed that this new act of Israeli aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of all principles of international law and the resolutions of the United Nations.

The two delegations asserted that there can be no just and lasting peace in the Middle East without Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and the acknowledgement of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to determine their own destiny, establish their own independent state on their national soil and return under the UN resolutions. They also asserted that such a solution can only be reached with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian war, the two sides expressed their clear stand that this war is creating a new hotbed of tension in the Middle East, that it is against the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and that imperialism is the only beneficiary from this war. In its efforts to regain the positions it has lost in this part of the world and to divert the Arab countries from the struggle to resolve the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question, imperialism starts and expands conflicts between countries of the region.

To emphasize their future readiness to exert efforts to further develop and deepen party relations in the interest of the Bulgarian and Syrian peoples, to unify all forces struggling against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and to achieve peace, democracy and social progress in all parts of the world, the two delegations signed a cooperation protocol between the two parties for 1982 and 1983.

AL-BA'TH RIDICULES HAIG'S WEST BANK STATEMENT

JN261143 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Today's Syrian papers devoted their editorials to the huge popular uprising in the occupied territory.

In its commentary today headlined "The West Bank Revolution Is a Rejection of Occupation," AL-BA'TH newspaper asserts that the current uprising in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan and Galilee has dealt a strong blow to the Camp David sides and given priority to this basic issue.

The paper says: The overwhelming uprising has asserted the strength of the Arab masses in the occupied territory and their persistent confrontation. This uprising has asserted that the will of the masses is stronger than all the plotting plans and methods and that the U.S.-backed Zionist terrorism cannot impose occupation on these masses.

The paper ridicules the U.S. administration's stand toward the West Bank uprising as expressed by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig yesterday when he said that his administration is very worried over the increasing violence in the West Bank and that it is watching the situation closely.

The paper adds: Washington is worried about Israel's view of the growing resistance against it. This is not the first time Washington has watched the situation closely, because the Arabs have suffered a great deal in the past because of this U.S. attitude.

The paper reviews the history of U.S.-Israeli relations, stressing that the United States has continuously supported the Zionist policy of aggression and expansion at a time when it disavowed the Arab Palestinian people's rights and prevented the international will more than once from adopting any sanctions against Israel.

AL-BA'TH concludes by calling for a decisive Arab stand toward the continued U.S. aggression against the Arab homeland.

BRIEFS

NEW TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR -- Damascus -- At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Mohamed ash-Sharif, who presented his credentials as Tunisian ambassador to Syria. [Text] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 82 JN]

KNESSET APPROVES SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET LAW

TA291715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] MK Mordekhay Ben-Porat's abstention and MK Menahem Hakohen's absence provided the coalition with a 59 to 57 victory in the final vote in the Knesset on the supplementary budget law. MK Menahem Hakohen of the Alignment is currently overseas; Hayim Druckman of the NRP voted with the opposition as did Yiga'el Hurvitz of Telem.

Our correspondent, Tzvi Yisre'eli, reports that Mordekhay Ben-Porat and Moshe Shahal of the Alignment exchanged sharp accusations after the vote. Ben-Porat accused Shahal of spreading false rumors that his considerations for voting with the government were connected with a proposal to become a minister. Ben-Porat said in the last 3 days since he had made up his mind about his vote he had not spoken with any Likud member. Amid loud heckling, Shahal replied that, thus, Ben-Porat was admitting that there had been contacts with him.

U.S., EGYPT REACT TO GOVERNMENT CRISIS

TA261258 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 82 p 4 of Weekend Supplement

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The United States closely followed the dramatic "battle" over the motion of no confidence in the Knesset hoping that Begin would indeed continue as prime minister. They are now showing a maximum of caution, restraint and care in their attitude toward Israel, and will continue this line until after the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. This is the reason Washington avoids reactions to remarks by government spokesman in which the United States has been blamed for neglecting Lebanon. Therefore, U.S. spokesman have refrained from reacting to the situation in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and to the extent that they do react, this reaction is very cautious. They did not comment when Israel's ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens, talked of the possibility of applying Israel's law to Judaea and Samaria or when threats were made in Israel that the withdrawal will not be completed if a solution to the border demarcation dispute is not found.

The Egyptians, too, fear a government crisis in Israel before 26 April since they have no idea how such a development will affect the completion of the Sinai withdrawal which is the most vital thing for them right now. The Egyptians followed the Knesset's night drama carefully, fearing for the fate of the Begin government, since, despite their criticism of the Begin policy, they laud his faithfulness to the Camp David accords and to implementing Israeli commitments made in them both in letter and in spirit. This was the reason President Mubarak's adviser, Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, arrived in Israel this past week -- to assure Begin that Egypt will be loyal to the peace agreement and abide by all its commitments. Al-Baz arrived in order to calm Begin and promise him he will do all he can to settle the dispute over the border demarcation as well as other issues. The Egyptians, for their reasons, are interested in Begin's continuation in power at least for the current official period.

MA'ARIV'S HARIF ANALYZES ALIGNMENT TACTICS

TA261506 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 82 p 13

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "'The secret plan' of Shim'on Peres to set up a minority government without elections, and with two liberals"]

[Excerpts] At the climax of the plot that unraveled in the Knesset this week, which can be likened to the political "theater of the absurd," another actor of the absurd was born: MK Hayim Druckman. With his arduous love for Eretz Yisra'el, Druckman wanted "to save Yamit," but he reached the point of not only not saving Yamit but also of possibly harming the Judaea and Samaria settlements.

This new absurd plot began to take shape on 24 March when Druckman, who was rushed to the Knesset building in a jeep of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal, reiterated his promise to vote against the government on the question of the supplementary budget as well.

At that time the government concluded that there would be no choice but to reach a compromise with the Alignment on the supplementary budget. The Tehiya movement and Rabbi Druckman took everything into consideration except one thing: With a possible compromise between the Likud and the Alignment over the supplementary budget -- the last coalition obstacle before the Knesset recesses -- the last weapon will be lost to Rabbi Druckman, the Tehiya and Telem who are holding the government by its throat.

On that same Wednesday, Alignment representatives named their price for a compromise, for their readiness to vote for the approval of a supplementary budget: raising the allocation for the Histadrut sick fund and transferring the funds allocated to settlement in Judaea and Samaria to settlement in the 'Arava.

There is a basis to assume that for lack of choice the government will give in to these two Alignment demands. As far as is known it has already been agreed to favorably consider raising the allocation to the Histadrut sick fund. The argument revolves around the transfer of funds from Judaea and Samaria to the 'Arava. It is reasonable to assume though that on this point, too, the government's position will soften. Druckman and Tehiya left the government no choice. Prime Minister Begin was indeed ready to bring about the government's resignation -- thus ridding himself of the punishment of Tehiya, Druckman and Telem that conspired with the Alignment, Shinuy and RAKAH; but his coalition partners -- especially the NRP -- prevented him from doing so. Begin: "It is true that I could use my authority to bring about the government's resignation without asking for the ministers' advice, but I am not obliged to use this authority of mine. Consultations with coalition partners are more important."

Begin believes that if a coalition partner, for whatever reasons it may have, cannot go to elections now (this is particularly said about the NRP), its stance should be taken into consideration. "Whoever expects loyalty from another has to demonstrate loyalty to the other as well." (The Alignment once paid the price of the "bright trick" it played on the NRP...)

This is one of this week's absurdities: The Alignment, by joining the Knesset initiative of RAKAH and Shinuy in supporting the no-confidence motion so as to weaken the government, has weakened itself and strengthened the government (it was not in vain that there were many within the Alignment -- from Yosi Sarid to Yitzhaq Rabin -- who hesitated about this move by the Alignment Executive and doubted its wisdom.

While the Alignment, or to be more precise, Shim'on Peres and his "team," continues to check with the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el about the possibility of setting up an Alignment-led government, the recent events have compelled Peres' "potential partners' to repeatedly declare allegiance to Menahem Begin. Not only did the NRP ministers and Agudat Yisra'el representatives pledge in the special Cabinet meeting not to help replace the government if it does not initiate early elections, but they essentially renewed their allegiance to the prime minister. MK Menahem Porush said: "If the government falls not at the Likud's initiative but as a result of the opposition's move, it is more preferable to go to new elections than to replace Begin.

We will not be the ones to bring Begin down," Agudat Yisra'el leaders Shlomo Lorincz and Avraham Shapira express themselves likewise. The NRP leader, Yosef Burg (who, in a conversation with Begin, admitted that unlike in past Alignment governments the NRP received "portfolios and not crumbs" under the Likud government) told Begin: "We will not be partners to any intrigues intended to overthrow the government..."

Thus, the Alignment gave the Likud renewed strength. Begin raised a challenge to Peres: You wanted to topple me? Well, then, announce you are prepared for new elections....

Begin is convinced there will be no avoiding new elections: "I have patience...Elections are inevitable. It will take weeks, perhaps months but it will be impossible to avoid elections... I assume that reality will convince my colleagues we should go to the people and ask them for a renewed mandate." We went back to the Labor Party chairman and asked him: Mr Peres, why will you not agree to new elections? I will first try to form a government, he replied. And do you really believe you have a chance of doing this? We asked. Yes, he answered. There is no certainty but there is a chance.

It seems that from Peres' point of view -- and this, no doubt, was his gravest mistake, to support MK Moshe Shahal's idea to follow RAKAH and Shinuy and submit a no-confidence motion in the government -- a complete disruption has occurred. It seems that feelers were recently put out to coalition partners and to "feeble links" of the Likud -- according to the Alignment's assessment -- for the purpose of establishing a Peres-led government. According to the original plan, the Alignment's "major assault" to storm the walls of the government should have come in May, after the completion of the Sinai withdrawal; but this week's events uncovered the secretly hatched plan. Peres' "partners" -- the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el -- openly dissociated themselves from him and from his initiative.

A follow up of the Alignment's secret initiatives for the toppling of the government disclosed that activity in this direction was indeed practical and, as is customary with strategists, an alternative plan was discussed in case the primary plan failed. It seems that only a strong desire to replace the government without elections could have produced such weak, if not childish, plans.

"Alignment limited circles" can also tell of the alternative plan known by its codename as "the combination."

What is "the combination"? This plan is based on the assumption that it may, perhaps, be possible to set up a government without the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el, and once this is done, the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el will follow. According to the anonymous authors of "the combination," the goal should be a government relying on 61 members without the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el. How is this possible? Simple: The Alignment has 48 members; Shinuy has 2, TAMI has 3 ("TAMI will be promised more ministers than it enjoyed under Begin..."); Telem has 2. A total of 55. How do you proceed thence? Well, for the chance of toppling Begin RAKAH will be prepared to support an Alignment-led government passively. This is logical and there will therefore be 59 supporters already. From where do we get two more? Well, these should come from the Likud -- namely, "people like Yitzhaq Berman and Dror Zeigerman..."

If anybody believes that this "combination" was not attempted, he is mistaken. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman told us: "True, I was approached by the Alignment. I answered that this is out of the question. I will not surrender my beliefs, forget about this. I know that Dror Zeigerman was also approached (separately Berman emphasized), and he gave them the same answer...." Was this a chance, once-in-a-lifetime talk? we asked Berman. No, both I and Zeigerman were approached several times.

In the special Cabinet meeting convened after the tie vote in the Knesset, Berman talked enthusiastically in favor of holding new elections: "I am convinced that the Likud will emerge strengthened from new elections, and exactly because of the things I am opposed to (such as extending the law to the Golan Heights).

I visit many houses and see repeatedly that the Likud's line is acceptable. I have no doubt that in new elections the Likud will be strengthened and I will go with the Likud."

These views are surely not pleasant for the Alignment which has put up with the fact that "Berman is a lost case." However, to judge by Peres' remarks, the Alignment has not despaired of establishing a government without elections. How? Peres has the solution, and the illusions. Peres will apparently prefer to exhaust all combinations before resorting to elections. It is not at all certain that in case of elections, the battle over the Alignment's candidate for prime minister will not begin anew. It is a fact that even among former Peres supporters some today prefer Yitzhaq Rabin (Speiser is not the only example of this). Is it indeed worth Peres' while to enter a new contest today when he is faced with a more united Likud? Peres knows the answer.

DETAILS OF MUBARAK MESSAGE TO BEGIN REPORTED

TA260621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Earlier this week there was a meeting in Jerusalem between the Egyptian presidential aide, 'Usamah al-Baz, and Prime Minister Menahem Begin at which Al-Baz conveyed a message from President Mubarak to the prime minister. This morning our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reveals the full text of the Egyptian president's message as well as details about the talk between the prime minister and Dr al-Baz.

[Schiffer -- live] Dear Prime Minister Begin -- Thus the Egyptian president opens his 6-page letter and goes on, in a masterpiece of political writing, to accomplish his goals: His wish for an Israeli reiteration that the Israeli withdrawal will be completed on schedule, a firm statement that there will be no concessions regarding the demarcation of the border at Tabah near Elat and, finally, his service to the Palestinian case. He expresses his concern about recent events in the territories held by Israel. All these points are combined with expressions of friendship toward the prime minister.

President Mubarak reminds Mr Begin of their meeting after the death of President as-Sadat and their mutual pledge that peace will prevail forever between the two countries. The Egyptian president reiterates this pledge and writes that he has recently clarified to our Arab brethren -- and he phrases it -- that the resumption of relations with them will not come at the expense of Israel. Afterward, the Egyptian president emphasizes that he expects Israel to stand by its commitments and complete the withdrawal from the Sinai on schedule.

The message focuses on the dispute over the demarcation of the border at Tabah. I assume-- President Mubarak writes -- that you are aware that we cannot make any concessions regarding our land but, by the same token, we do not expect you to make concessions either. It is not a question of bargaining over some meters on this or that side; it is a matter of searching for the truth. The technicians who were involved in this task did not succeed in arriving at the truth and that is why we proposed that a neutral technical survey be carried out.

In an unambiguous manner, the Egyptian president states, and I quote: We are not willing to accept any Israeli presence in the survey area because it will unnecessarily becloud our relations and it might even cast doubt on Israel's intentions. Also, it will give a weapon to those interested in undermining the peace process.

President Mubarak suggests to the prime minister that the latter serve as the arbiter in the conflict between Israel and Egypt. I am appealing to your historical sense and as the Israeli leader who played the central role in achieving this historic achievement.

I am also appealing to you as a lawyer who appreciates the rule of law and legitimacy. A speedy decision on your part will make possible the ending of this argument in a spirit of fairness rather than in a spirit of bargaining.

Mubarak does not make do with the above and adds words of praise for Menahem Begin. As said, current events are also mentioned in the Egyptian president's message. I want to express before you our concern about recent developments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, President Mubarak expresses the hope that efforts will continue so as to arrive at an agreement on a declaration of principles regarding full autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in accord with the Camp David accords. We regard these documents as the only practical option toward the beginning of the process of solving the Palestinian problem. The parties must propose an attractive plan that would lure the Palestinians to participate in its implementation.

The message ends by expressing the belief that sooner or later the parties to the negotiations on the autonomy will succeed in overcoming the various difficulties and obstacles and will reach an agreement. In his message, President Mubarak does not even say one word about his visit to Israel. Finally, there is no other choice but to note the fact that Cairo did not judge properly what is happening in Jerusalem this week. It appears that Cairo policymakers have not grasped the sensitive situation the prime minister has run into from the parliamentary point of view. Evidence of this is the language President Mubarak chose in writing about the dispute over the demarcation of the border. Rigidity cannot help the government these days. In any case, the prime minister has not yet replied to President Mubarak's message and he will do so in the next few days.

BEGIN'S REPLY TO MUBARAK MESSAGE REPORTED

TA291811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1726 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Begin's message to Mubarak: No army in the world would agree to having its soldiers stoned, knives driven into their backs and handgrenades hurled toward their vehicles. This is how Prime Minister Begin explained to the Egyptian president events in Judaea and Samaria in a message conveyed to President Mubarak by Israel's Ambassador to Cairo Moshe Sason. In the afternoon the ambassador conveyed a message from the Egyptian president to the prime minister. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports on the contacts between Jerusalem and Cairo and on the prime minister's message.

[Begin recording] Menahem Begin replies to Husni Mubarak with the same type of speech used by the Egyptian president in his letter to the prime minister: friendship, promises and not a single concession.

Prime Minister Begin reminds Mubarak of his meeting with him before the funeral of President as-Sadat: We promised each other eternal peace and eternal friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the future. Israel will fulfill all its commitments in the peace treaty. The withdrawal will be completed on time despite the difficulties. The prime minister writes on the physical and mental hardships involved in the Yamit District evacuation. President as-Sadat told me in Camp David -- Mr Begin says -- he will not be able to give up even a single inch of the Sinai because if that happens he will be stoned by his people. Now -- the prime minister says -- some of my people want to stone me because of the Sinai settlements.

As for the dispute over the border demarcation in the Tabah area near Elat, Israel is not asking Egypt to give up even 1 centimeter of its area because to the best of our knowledge, relying on our best experts, the area is question is Israeli in the full sense of the word. The prime minister proposes that, as is customary among friends, an attempt will be made to solve the dispute through reaching an agreement and that until then life in the disputed area will continue unchanged.

It should be noted that Israel will not agree to international arbitration, or as put by a political source, we know the quality of judgments from international institutions that are given to the control of Israel's enemies.

As for events in the occupied territories -- the prime minister writes that Jordan and Syria have no moral right to appeal to the UN Security Council. King Husayn slaughtered the Palestinians in their camps in 1970, killed many civilians and was not called to order by the international community. President al-Asad effected a slaughter in the Syrian city of Hamah only a few weeks ago but the world kept silent. Israel is defending itself. The IDF soldiers should not be condemned. On the contrary, their restraint in establishing order in Judaea and Samaria should be lauded, the prime minister writes.

The prime minister's letter of reply does not contain a solution to the conflict over the border demarcation. It seems that further contacts will be necessary for this, perhaps through a meeting between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali at the beginning of next week. Let us emphasize that this has not been confirmed and it is only after President Mubarak's message is handed to the prime minister will we know things for sure. [end recording]

BEGIN ACCEPTS ARBITRATION ON TABAH DISPUTE

TA291505 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Mar p 1

[Report by 'Oded Granot and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Mr Moshe Sason yesterday delivered to President Husni Mubarak a letter from Prime Minister Menahem Begin in response to the message from the Egyptian president which was brought to Jerusalem by special envoy Dr Usamah al-Baz. Begin's letter dealt mainly with the dispute between the two countries on the border demarcation.

Israel announced in the letter its acceptance of mutually agreed upon arbitration in the matter of the border at Tabah. It also announced that the evacuation of Sinai will be completed on time and that the autonomy negotiations will continue.

In yesterday's meeting in the Al-'Uruba Palace, which lasted about an hour, the ambassador was asked to relay another message from Mr Mubarak to the prime minister. The message Mr Sason delivered yesterday to the Egyptian president deals with all the matters Mr Mubarak raised in his previous message, including bilateral relations.

In President Mubarak's meeting with Ambassador Sason the events in the occupied territories were also discussed. It has been learned that the ambassador explained the motives for Israel's actions. He noted that what is now happening in the territories is largely a result of activity by individuals, organizations, and states outside Judaea and Samaria, whose goal is to undermine the peace process. He emphasized that Israel is firmly resolved to hold negotions with interested persons and groups in the occupied territories.

On leaving the meeting, which the ambassador called "pleasant and friendly," Sason met with Egyptian journalists. His statements to them were broadcast yesterday evening on Egyptian television. It would seem that following President Mubarak's second message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin further contacts are to be expected in the next few days as part of an effort to resolve the border dispute and decide whether or not Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will be going to Egypt next week.

SOURCE SAYS RESUMPTION OF AUTONOMY TALKS SOUGHT

TA281327 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] An effort should be made to bring about a resumption of the autonomy talks, particularly now when the unrest in Judaea and Samaria is escalating, said a senior political source last night. It may be assumed that the subject will also be mentioned at today's Cabinet session during the discussion of recent incidents in Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights. According to that source, had the autonomy talks been conducted as planned, this would have blunted the intensity of the ferment in the territories by those opposed to the autonomy and, on the other hand, it would encourage moderates among territory residents, who are ready to support an arrangement of this sort.

As will be recalled, it was decided to suspend the autonomy talks following Israel's announcement that the talks must be held in Jerusalem and in Cairo, after the Egyptians refused to come to Jerusalem. It has been learned that the United States proposed inviting the senior autonomy delegations to Washington, for a common attempt to find a solution for the problems still in dispute.

The political source added the talks were also important as a way to reexamine Egypt's position. Egypt recently joined the choir of anti-Israeli agitators, during the discussion in the UN Security Council. It is imperative to remind Egypt, the source said, that the stance it adopted does not befit a country that signed a peace treaty with Israel.

CORRESPONDENT NOTES EGYPTIAN ANGER OVER W. BANK

TA291207 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Mar 82 pp 3, 6

[Report from Cairo by Smadar Peri]

[Text] It is only after a promise that the names of people speaking would not be published that official sources in Cairo are today prepared to react to what is occurring in the West Bank. The truth is that the Cabinet ministers already have statements prepared, but it appears that they have decided to wait for a date suitable to them to react. That date -- there is no need to be a prophet -- will only be after 25 April.

In government ministries, particularly those dealing with the peace negotiations, there is enormous anger at Israel. The latest events in the West Bank are being interpreted here as a side effect of the complications of the autonomy talks and the deadlock that has occurred in them, not for the first time.

The local press is faithfully giving the reports from the news agencies in Tel Aviv. The dismissal of the two mayors from their posts, the strikes, the rioting and the reaction of the Arabs of Israel -- along with statements by Cabinet ministers -- all of these are brought to the readers' attention, for his personal impression. There are no editorials. It is as though a guiding hand had ordered the newspaper editors to restrain themselves -- until 25 April; to under no circumstances give the Government of Israel any excuse whatsoever to stop the Sinai withdrawal. The television newscast at 1800 and 1900, the peak viewing times, also give dry reports of what is occurring in the West Bank. However, here the result is the opposite. Along with the oral survey appear pictures and television films in color, which have no less influence than commentaries.

A senior official in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, one of those who insist that their names should not be mentioned, tried to explain to me how Cairo analyzes the latest events in the West Bank.

"Believe me," he said, "it is difficult for me to understand how all this occurred."

Not only do we have serious difficulties on the withdrawal issue -- and it is not yet clear if the Sinai evacuation will take place on time -- now Israel has managed to set a flame of hatred alight in the West Bank towns. Egypt is working to renew its relations with the Arab world -- taking scrupulous care to maintain the peace process -- and these events in the West Bank have got us into a bundle of complications. This will naturally have a certain affect on Egyptian-Israeli relations."

Is this pure propaganda? Or is it a question of declared positions and I, as an Israeli journalist in Cairo, act as a tool to bring them to Israel, as we have become accustomed to for the 4 years of the peace process?

The number of Egyptian visitors who planned to arrive in Israel with the encouragement of the authorities thinned out even more over the last week. Groups that had been organized several weeks ago, with the encouragement of the local normalization department, have announced the cancellation of their tours to Israel. Local businessmen have decided, without having been given orders, that it would be better to wait for a period of calm. The date 25 April is not only a target date for Israel -- in Egypt, too, people have decided to use the terms "before" and "after" the withdrawal.

A senior diplomat from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry who spent a long time in Israel picked me up in his car and poured out his anger to me. He said: "What evil spirit has got into you and caused Israel to worsen the hatred and anger in Tulkarm, Janin, Nabulus and Al-Birah? Note what is happening: Over the last 4 years we raised serious complaints against the aggressiveness of the Military Government in the West Bank, but now you have set a new record. I am waiting to see how you will get out of this."

People in Cairo view the events in the West Bank towns and the fruit of the hatred kindled against the Israeli administration, hatred that has smouldered in the hearts of the local inhabitants over the last few months. The source of the hatred, according to the Egyptian explanation, lies in the unceasing clashes between the local Palestinians and members of Gush Emunim, and especially Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, who is accused here of exhibiting racism toward the Palestinians. It is of course true, people in Cairo add, that Israel saw to deterring Rabbi Kahana and his personnel and he has even been arrested several times, but his supporters and allies are continuing to fan the flames of hatred in the West Bank.

Professor Menahem Milson, the head of the Civil Administration, has become a much discussed and well-recognized figure in the Cario government ministries over the last week. His name is easily heard, with members of the establishment adding quotes to his academic title at every opportunity. A small group of members of the establishment and the intelligentsia also remember Professor Milson from his visit to Cairo, at the invitation of President as-Sadat. Some of them take care to quote things he said when he was in Egypt, about 2 years ago, on his visit here as a member of the entourage of the former deputy prime minister, Professor Yiga'el Yadin. Does Israel really intend to annex the West Bank, people are wondering in Cairo. A large group of Egyptians claim that the Government of Israel does not need such a move -- not because it would be a grave error that would cause serious harm to the Israeli information establishment, but for the simple reason the ruling party in Israel has never regarded the West Bank as land that was not Israeli...

Another group here explains that the fanning of feelings in the West Bank is a deliberate, planned Israeli action. According to the claim, Israel wants to show the world, and perhaps Egypt too, a picture of instability and lack of calm that will prove that all the possibilities of continuing with the autonomy negotiations and reaching a genuine solution in the West Bank are blocked in advance. It may be, they add at this point, that Israel has panicked at the Egyptian declaration of intentions about the need to work for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, "but nothing will help them," they promise enthusiastically. "Even if we amend our declarations on the matter of the Palestinian state and adapt them to clauses in the Camp David agreements, in the end events will continue to occur on their own and that state will be established, come what may, whatever you feel about it."

AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

Arrival Statement

TA261147 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1120 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 26 Mar -- Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Tony Street arrived today for a 5-day official visit. Upon arriving at the airport, he said the events Israel is now experiencing require a show of courage beyond what it had already shown when signing the peace agreements with Egypt. In a brief statement he made upon his arrival aboard a special Australian Air Force plane, Mr Street said that his visit here is the first by an Australian foreign minister since 1966. Despite the great geographical distance between the two countries, they have particularly close ties. Australian soldiers fought in the region for peace and security during two world wars. However, Australia's links with the area do not depend only on a common past. Proof of this is the Australian participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO].

"Australia is proud of its ties with Israel and Israel's safety constitutes an important pillar of Australia's policy. Israel demonstrated a great deal of courage in its search for peace when it signed the Camp David accords. The recent events have made it absolutely clear that in the future Israel may be required to demonstrate more, perhaps even greater, courage then it has previously demonstrated," the guest said.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who welcomed his Australian counterpart, lauded the friendly relations between the two countries which share values and ideals of a commitment to the cause of peace. He expressed his hope that the visit will further contribute to strengthening friendly ties between the two countries.

Meets Shamir

TA281842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister Anthony Street met for over 2 hours today with Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The two discussed bilateral issues, the latest developments in the Middle East and the peace process. After the meeting, Israeli officials said that Street had expressed concern over developments in the administered territories, but had made no specific criticism. Tomorrow the Australian foreign minister meets with Prime Minister Begin and Defense Minister Sharon.

Details of Talks

TA281948 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Anthony Street promised that his country would oppose any attempt to expel Israel from the United Nations. In his meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Street said Australia is prepared to sell Israel large quantities of coal for the Hadera power station. During the meeting, Minister Shamir explained the nature of the events in the territories, saying that Israel is defending the Arab population from PLO and Jordanian threats.

Further Details

TA291027 Jerusalem POST in English 29 Mar 82 p 3

[Report by Benny Morris]

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister Anthony Street yesterday assured Israel that his country would not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization until the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist, and in peace, Israeli Government sources said yesterday.

The sources said the visiting minister told Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that, as a major policy commitment, Australia will continue to oppose the suspension or expulsion of Israel from international bodies.

Emerging from more than two hours of talks with Shamir at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, Street denied that "there are major differences of policy between Israel and Australia, only differences of focus." Israel is naturally interested primarily in the Middle East while Australian political attention is focused mainly on events in Southeast Asia and the south Pacific, he said. The talks between the two foreign ministers were described as "very friendly." Shamir and Street discussed bilateral issues, the Middle East and the problems of Southeast Asia and the south Pacific.

Shamir told Street of Israel's "major sacrifices" on behalf of peace, and spoke of the problems caused by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem. The Egyptian Government is still at the stage of "seeking its path," said Shamir, and is subject to various pressures by Arab states and others involved in the Middle East situation.

Shamir told Street that the present situation in the West Bank is a result of Israel's desire to assure the local inhabitants freedom from pressures and threats by the PLO and Jordan. He said the autonomy talks with Egypt would be resumed after the 25 April withdrawal. Shamir raised the problem of the projected trade imbalance between Israel and Australia which will result from Israel's import of Australian coal to fuel the Hadera power generating plant. Street yesterday toured the Lebanese border area and visited Kibbutz Misgav-'am.

Report on Press Conference

TA291909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister Anthony Street is winding up his visit to Israel. Today he met with Prime Minister Begin and Defense Minister Sharon. During their meeting, the prime minister thanked the Australian for his country's contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers [MFO]. This evening, Foreign Minister Street held a press conference. Neil Sandler reports:

[Begin recording] [Sandler] The foreign minister said that he came to Israel as a friend and he had been received as such. He said the main topic in his discussions with Israeli leaders had been the security issue and how it is viewed by them. Foreign Minister Street said his visit did not signal any change in Australia's position concerning the Middle East.

[Street] We are strong supporters of the Camp David process and, happily, it looks as though the first date to be met -- that is, the complete withdrawal from the Sinai -- is about to be achieved, and we expect it will be. After that, we hope that progress will be made in a second element, that is, the autonomy talks. The point is that the Camp David process is the only process at the moment under which progress has been made.

[Sandler] But, on the Palestinian question, he made it clear that Australia and Israel did not see eye to eye. Foreign Minister Street said he brought up at all his meetings with Israeli officials Australia's concern about the recent events in the territories, including the dismissal of the mayors of Ramallah, Nabulus and Al-Birah. In addition to getting Israel's side of picture, the foreign minister also met today with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj but he described the meeting as private and would not go into details about their talk. However, the minister stressed that the Palestinian issue was viewed separately from the Sinai withdrawal and would not affect Australia's participation in the MFO. But, Foreign Minister Street made it clear that the sending of troops to the Sinai is a controversial issue in Australia.

[Street] Australian participation in the MFO is not a bipartisan policy in Australia, it was opposed politically by our federal opposition and, therefore, it was very important for us to demonstrate that the MFO and the logistics had a broad basic support. And, we are very pleased indeed to find the four EC countries participating.

[Sandler] Tomorrow, the foreign minister leaves for Egypt, the next stop on his Middle East tour which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain. [end recording]

CURFEWS, SIEGES IMPOSED ON WEST BANK VILLAGES

TA291328 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on the village of Al-Khidr between Jerusalem and Hebron. It was near that village that a jeep belonging to the treasurer of the Gush 'Ezyon local council was attacked and one of the stonethrowers was wounded by the driver's shots. The jeep was completely destroyed and the driver received minor injuries.

Our correspondent reports that curfews or sieges have been imposed on another seven settlements [Arab villages] in Judaea and Samaria. A full curfew has also been imposed on Halhul, Ya'bad, Si'ir and on the refugee camp near Janin. A siege has been imposed on the villages of Idnah, Az-Zahiriyah and Batir and nobody can enter or leave them. All of this has occurred after the disruptions to the peace by the inhabitants.

Today it emerged that in the grave incidents that occurred yesterday in Ya'bad near Janin a member of the civil guard was injured by a volley of stones. He is hospitalized in 'Afula. In those incidents four of the village inhabitants were injured.

LAND DAY STRIKE MARKED BY VIOLENCE, ARRESTS

TA300906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] According to reports arriving from the settlements in the Arab sector, it appears that the response to the strike call has varied from place to place. There have been several incidents of blocking roads, flying flags and gatherings, but there have only been arrests in Nazareth. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports from there that the commercial and school strike there is complete; only a few workers have set off for work. The bus services are operating and there is calm in the town. Eight people detained this morning were released after a police interrogation. Among those detained were two members of the town council, the director of the mayor's office, MK Tawfiq Zayyad and also his wife. Police said that they were suspected of incitement to strike, but the detained denied this, saying that in any case calling for a strike was not a crime.

Less than an hour ago police dispersed a rally of about 150 young people from the village of Kabul in western Galilee. There, as well as in Shefar'am and Tamra, the organizers tried to interfere with workers going to work and with students going to school. In Kafr Manda a fight broke out between supporters and opponents of the strike and a local inhabitant was slightly injured.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the other villages of Galilee that the situation is for the most part calm. In some of the villages children and others set up roadblocks of stones or threw stones at cars. They also blocked the roads to several of the observation points in Galilee and tires were set on fire in several villages. Police have removed all the barricades and no one has been arrested. In Shefar'im and several other villages there were school strikes, as well as in the village of Umm el Fahm, in the triangle, where police discovered that the local council had changed the locks in schools to stop them from being opened.

In Kafr Qasim, in the triangle, people are gathering at the central mosque and the ITIM correspondent reports that feelings are high, but order is being preserved. In At-Tiaiyiba, which was the only village in the triangle where a commercial strike began this morning, the main road was blocked about an hour ago with a large number of stones and tires were set on fire at the cemetary. Police dispersed the inhabitants and there were no arrests. In Baqa al-Gharbiyya, in the triangle, and also in Sakhnin and Kafr Yasif in Galilee, Palestinian flags were flown and taken down shortly afterward by police. In most of the settlements of Judaea and Samaria, the strike is complete and in many places stone barricades have been set up on the roads. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in several places Palestinian flags have been flown.

WEST BANK ARABS SEEK FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS

TA291357 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Mar 82 p 16

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] The fact that the autonomy program may be implemented in Judaea and Samaria is not deterring both young and old people in Jordan and the oil shaykhdoms from seeking the unification of their families even though they will have to live under an Israeli administration. Israeli sources reported that over the last 6 months it was expected that, following the establishment of the Civil Administration and the beginning of the fulfillment of the autonomy plan, the number of Palestinian Arabs wishing to live in Judaea and Samaria would decrease. However, the reality is that the number seeking unification of their families is on a constant upswing.

From December 1981 through February 1982 about 2,000 requests were submitted in the Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah Districts alone. Some of them were turned down and some are being studied. According to the same sources, the administered territories are still considered to be a safe haven when compared with where many Palestinians are living, either in Jordan or in one of the shaykhdoms. They know that they can be deported from Kuwait or Qatar at any time while only a public figure accused of hostile activity can be deported from Janin or Hebron and even this is only after legal proceedings.

The director general of the Ministry of the Interior, Yehudit Huebner, last night confirmed that the number of people emigrating from east Jerusalem and the administered territories is very small in comparison with the emigration from the "green line territory." There has been a constant increase in the number of Arabs who are living in Arab countries and who want to obtain a certificate permitting them to live in Judaea and Samaria for as long as they want.

IDF: YAMIT EVACUATION WILL PROCEED AS SCHEDULED

TA261715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Commander of the Southern Command, Hayim Erez, informed the representatives of the Yamit residents that even though they have not completed the negotiations over their compensation, the IDF will not postpone the date of their evacuation. He says the IDF will allow the town residents to evacuate of their own free will until Wednesday, 31 March, and only then will the IDF start to operate. Maj Gen Hayim Erez conferred with the director general of the prime minister's office today as well as with representatives of the settlers, who announced that the settlers' have no intention of leaving their residences of their own accord before the compensation money is obtained. The director general of the prime minister's office said he will do everything to speed up the compensation and promised that if necessary, he will continue to hold contacts on this even after the evacuation.

GOLAN DRUZE WELCOME LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

TA261209 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by correspondent in the north Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpt] Last night the Druze on the Golan Heights welcomed the defense minister's announcement about the lifting of restrictions on their villages with mixed feelings. Pro-Israeli Druze expressed their fears that the lifting of restrictions would renew threats and pressures on them by nationalists and those who are pro-Syrian. It has been reported that since the blockade was imposed, some 500 Druze applied for Israeli identity cards at the Interior Ministry office at Mas'adah. To date, only 300 Druze own Israeli identity cards. More than 5,000 Druze have not yet made up their minds on the issue.

Druze clerics and leaders known as anti-Israeli yesterday expressed their satisfaction at the upcoming lifting of the blockade but claimed that their struggle was chiefly aimed against the obligation to accept Israeli identity cards. They were apprehensive about pressures to be exerted on those Druze who will not carry Israeli identity cards after 1 April. Golan Druze dignitaries threatened that if they were forced to carry Israeli identity cards they would stage a general hunger strike in their villages. The Committee of Solidarity With the Golan Druze stated that upon the lifting of the blockade the Israeli Government must also release the 12 Druze in detention.

To Continue Strike

TA281435 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Mar 82 p 8

[Excerpt] Reacting to the Defense Ministry's announcement about the lifting of the military limitations on the Golan Heights as of 1 April, spokesmen for the strikers in the Golan Druze villages declared that they would not end their strike. The leaders of the strikers say the strike had nothing to do with the military blockade imposed on the area, but with the application of Israeli law to the Golan and with the arrest of the leaders.

It was also stated that the strike would continue until the Golan Law is rescinded, the detainees released and the Druze residents excempted from having to carry Israeli identity cards. The leaders of the strikers in the Golan communicated, through the solidarity committee, a manifesto denouncing government policy in the territories, and extended condolences to families of persons killed in the recent incidents.

SHAMIR: DRUZE OBLIGATED TO RESPECT LAW

TA281858 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Mar 82

["Excerpt" of address by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Qiryat Shemona on 27 March -- recorded]

[Text] I think we can tell our Druze friends on the Golan Heights who pine for Syria that if they had acted in Syria the same as they are behaving today under Israeli rule not a single refugee would have been left of them, nor would one stone have remained in its place in their villages. This is the big difference [between Israeli rule and Syrian rule]. They will accept [Israeli rule]. We are not forcing them to become Israeli citizens. Not at all. They can remain Syrian citizens: They can go to Syria if they want. They can also remain here, but they must act in accordance with this country's laws.

We are being told that the Druze faith obligates its faithful to behave according to the laws of the country they are living in. A country's law is what counts. Well, then, here is where Israeli law applies, and they must get used to living by that law. I am convinced this [agitation] will pass. What worries me -- and I must admit on this occasion -- is that in the course of the struggle for peace and stability in the Golan as well as in Judea and Samaria it happened that this struggle turned into a weapon in the partisan war. This should not have happened.

SIXTH SUMMIT OF SAHARAN STATES CLOSES 29 MAR

Haydala Speech

AB291725 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Speech by Mauritanian President Khouna Ould Haydala at the closing session of the sixth summit conference of the Saharan states in Nouakchott on 29 March -- recorded]

[Text] Heads of state and government, ministers, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: At the end of this sixth summit conference of the Saharan states, please allow me first of all to address warm and sincere congratulations to our brother and friend, Gen Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, for the tireless efforts he made during his tenure of office to ensure the implementation of the objectives of our organization. The task accomplished under his enlightened leadership was gigantic. The launching of the organization became a reality thanks to the competence, wisdom, devotion and the sense of (?organization) he demonstrated in the service of African unity and solidarity. By paying a deserved tribute to the (?outgoing chairman) of our organization, we also are doing justice to the brotherly Malian people who did everything to ensure the success of our fifth summit conference and whose hospitality and warm welcome will always be fresh in our memories.

Having become the new chairman of our organization, I am aware of the difficulty of the task thus entrusted to me. However, I am proud of this confidence accorded to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government through me. I am aware of the importance of this mission and I can assure you that I will spare no effort to discharge my (?duties) in the best possible conditions. I think I can count on your support and cooperation [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct] In fact, our sixth summit conference defined precise ways and means of cooperation among the Saharan states. I would like to take this opportunity to address warm congratulations to our experts and ministers for the remarkable work they accomplished -- work which has now introduced among our states a new order of political, economic, social and cultural relations based on age-old bonds of brotherhood, friendship and goodneighborliness and, consequently, on a common destiny. [passage indistinct]

A vast field of cooperation beneficial to our peoples has thus been opened to us and we should not disappoint our peoples who aspire for improved conditions and progress. To fulfill this legitimate aspiration, we must exploit all economic potentialities of our Saharan zone. This zone, which shelters societies in full mutation and which greatly has deteriorated during the past few years, must be preserved so that (?this degradation will not reach an alarming level). The magnitude and complexity of problems facing this Saharan entity are such that none of our states can solve these problems alone. In fact, it is a matter of improving the lot of our rural populations hit by a persistent drought, of harnessing water in a hostile climate and of promoting a progressive integration of our economies by pooling together our common resources and the implementation of economic ventures of common interest. These various steps [words indistinct] will enable us to achieve the setting up of an inter-Saharan common market. As can be observed in the light of the conclusions of (?our experts], the future of inter-Saharan cooperation is promising.

The political will of the Saharan states is to make the subregion a place of Arab-African cooperation [words indistinct]. We must (?congratulate ourselves for this and we must do everything to) ensure a good political climate in the Sahara through the extinction of all hotbeds of tension, especially in Western Sahara. By establishing serene and confident relations based on respect and the sovereignty of peoples and their right to self-determination and independence, we surely will create the right conditions to restore to the Sahara its historic role of a zone of fruitful cooperation and symbiosis of Arabs and Africans.

Mr Chairman and dear brothers, cooperation among the Saharan states has been launched. Its objectives and program of action will be (?realized). [passage indistinct] As far as it is concerned, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania will do everything it can to consolidate the age-old bonds uniting our peoples and to help promote the integrated development of the resources of our subregion.

Long live the conference of the Saharan states! Long live African unity and solidarity! Long live the Saharan! Long live [word indistinct]. I declare closed the deliberations of the sixth summit conference of heads of state and government of the Saharan states. [applause]

Communique Issued

AB291818 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Communique issued at the end of the sixth summit of Saharan heads of state in Nouakchott on 29 March]

[Text] The sixth summit conference of heads of state and government of the Saharan states was held in Nouakchott on 28 and 29 March 1982. Present at the meeting were: President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the National Liberation Front; His Excellencey Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the Republic of Mali; His Excellency Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] and head of state of Chad; His Excellency Lt Col Mohammed Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; His Excellency Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the (?historic) command of the 1 September Revolution and head of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah delegation; and His Excellency Daouda Diallo, minister for foreign affairs and cooperation representing His Excellency Col Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of the Niger Republic.

The conference reviewed the various activities undertaken since the historic summit in Bamako, the constructive dialogue that member states have established within the conference and all issues of common interest that will contribute to the strengthening of their political relations and the new dimension in their economic, cultural and social ties, through the development of a fraternal and mutually advantageous cooperation at the subregional level. The firm committment of all member states to a process of active participation in this great venture of solidarity enabled the laying of the basis for the setting up of a viable Saharan entity, thereby opening perspectives that reflect the profound aspirations of the people of the subregion. The mobilization of the immense potentialities of the Saharan states and the pooling of their efforts will give a larger dimension to their cooperation which is marked by the instauration of a new order of relations guided by ties of fraternity, friendship and goodneighborliness.

The heads of state and government had an extensive exchange of views on the world economic situation characterized by a worsening of international relations and increased number of hotbeds generated by imperialist maneuvers, leading to large deployment of intervention forces and the implantation of new military bases. They noted with deep concern that the (?continued) antagonism in West-East relations and a depolarization of international issues as well as the unrestrained arms race contribute to the frequent interventions of the superpowers in the domestic affairs of Third World countries, particularly in Africa which is facing the threat of becoming more and more involved in the race for foreign bases.

In this context, the heads of state and government believe African countries must be careful not to become the target of extra-African interests which will only endanger their independence, security and development. The heads of state and government expressed their conviction on the urgent need for African countries to further consolidate their solidarity ties within the framework.

This is the only alternative to enable the countries of the south to better defend their national interests in the face of strategic policies whose first aim is to ensure political reign over the entire world.

Noting the importance given to monetary preoccupations in international relations and in issues of development, the heads of state and government stressed the urgent need for global negotiations to solve problems created by the structural disorder of the world economy and the need for a true North-South dialogue.

On the African level, the heads of state and government expressed their deep concern over the strenghtening of extra-African military presence on the continent, particularly in the subregion. They also condemned the process of internationalizing inter-African conflicts. In this context, they condemned the interference of the superpowers in disputes between African states, resulting undeniably in the escalation of such disputes.

Concerning Namibia, the heads of state and government reaffirmed their strong and unflinching solidarity to the Namibian and South African people fighting for their national rights. The heads of state and government reaffirmed their determination to see the modalities for the independence of Namibia respected in conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 435, the decisions of the OAU and the non-aligned countries in order to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people fighting under the leadership of SWAPO, their only legitimate representative. They condemned the electoral maneuvers aimed at delaying Namibia's inevitable accession to sovereigny and independence. They also condemned the sly maneuvers aimed at situating the Namibia issue within the framework of a West-East conflict. The heads of state and government hailed the courage and determination of the frontline states exposed to aggressions by imperialism. They reaffirmed their support to those countries and condemned all attempts at destabilization of the states of the subregion and the internationalization of the conflict.

Concerning Chad, the heads of state and government support efforts by the OAU to help the GUNT restore peace, maintain unity and preserve the territorial integrity of this brotherly country.

After reviewing the situation in the Middle East, the heads of state and government reaffirmed their conviction that Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Al-Quds, and the effective recognition of national rights for the Palestinian people are and remain the necessary condition for a just and lasting peace in the region. They also reaffirmed their constant and unflinching support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their only and legitimate representative. The heads of state and government vigorously condemned the annexation of the Golan and gave their firm support to the brotherly Syrian people in this new test imposed on the Arab nation by Zionism. They also condemned the [words indistinct] which the Arab people of the West Bank and the Gaza as well as the other occupied Arab territories are being subjected to. The heads of state and government decided to hold the seventh summit of the conference and of the Saharan states in Ndjamena, Chad, in March 1984.

The heads of state and government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; the Republic of Mali; the Republic of Chad; the representatives of the heads of state of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; and the Republic of Niger thank the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, President Mohammed Khouna Ould Haydala, head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; the Military Committee for National Salvation; and the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded them as well as for the spirit of friendship and the comfort which enabled smooth deliberations at the sixth conference of Saharan states.

Jallud Statement

LD300934 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli -- Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud praised the positive results of the sixth summit conference of African countries bordering the Sahara.

In a statement to pressmen before leaving Nouakchott yesterday, Staff Major Jallud said the final communique of the conference which ended yesterday, included important Afro-Arab Saharan issues and other international topics.

Staff Major Jallud affirmed the firm and positive political stands taken by the Mauritanian Government regarding various vital Arab issues which qualify it to join the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to counter reactionary policies and treacherous accords.

Present at Staff Major Jallud's farewell yesterday at noon in Nouakchott airport were Colonel Maayoua Ould Sidi Admed Taya, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, the prime minister and minister of defence of Mauritania. Others present at the farewell were members of the Military Committee for National Salvation, Ministers, the secretary and members of the Libyan People's Bureau, and accredited members of the diplomatic corps in Mauritania.

LESOTHO, SWAZILAND JOIN PREFERENTIAL TRADE AREA

LD231630 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Lesotho and Swaziland have joined nine other African states as members of the Lusaka-based Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, which was formed at the end of last year. There was no immediate indication why Botswana, which with Lesotho and Swaziland, belongs to a customs union with South Africa, did not sign the Preferential Trade Area (?founding) treaty today. Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland did not join the original nine members of the Preferential Trade Area because they wanted to negotiate a protocol in the treaty recognizing their unique position in relation to South Africa.

CHAD

GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES MEMORANDUM TO OAU

AB291748 Paris AFP in French 1630 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 29 Mar (AFP) -- In a memorandum addressed to the OAU and published on Monday in Ndjamena, Chad's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] reaffirms that the OAU permanent committee does not have the authority to make decisions involving Chad and defines the role it feels the inter-African force should play in Chad.

Stating that during a meeting held last November in Nairobi, "the activities of the permanent committee on Chad were terminated," the memorandum indicates that neither the permanent committee nor any other ad hoc committee has the authority to impose decisions on the Chadian Government without the consent of the latter, the sole legitimate representative of the Chadian peoples.

The GUNT document refers to the elections recommended by the Nairobi summit on 10 and 11 February, while claiming the principle of organizing democratic elections has always been one of GUNT's primary objectives." In the present circumstances, however, and given the deadline prescribed by the permanent committee, to speak of elections seems to be a delusion," states the GUNT which also says it is impossible to organize elections in Chad without a lasting peace. The GUNT therefore calls on the OAU to help restore peace to Chad." a prerequisite for the smooth running of any elections which, in fact, require long physical and psychological preparation."

Concerning the inter-African peacekeeping force, the GUNT memorandum refutes "the neutral nature" attributed to it by the Nairobi summit resolutions. The provisions contained in the statute of the African force, the GUNT stresses, "leave no doubt" regarding the "active role" this peacekeeping force should play in Chad. As far as the GUNT is concerned, "this role" cannot be interpreted in any other way. The memorandum asks: "what exactly was the reason behind the OAU decision to send troops to Chad? Everyone knew that at the time the OAU decided to send troops to Chad that there was no tension in the Chadian territory where friendly forces were helping the GUNT to maintain security."

According to the GUNT document, it is because the OAU "was not pleased" with the presence of these "friendly troops" in Chad that it called on them to withdraw "not without laying empahsis on the Chadian forces' disorganization and their inability to take over from the Libyans."

In addition to training Chad's Integrated National Army (ANI), which the GUNT has called on it to do, the OAU force, the memorandum adds should perform three tasks: maintain peace and security in the country; defend Chad in case of foreign aggression; and stand ready to intervene at any moment to restore law and order in the case of disturbances, at the request of the GUNT.

The GUNT, the memorandum given to the OAU stresses, thanks Nigeria, Zaire and Senegal -- the countries that have supplied troops to Chad -- "which are making immense sacrifices for the upkeep of their national troops" although this should have been the responsibility of the OAU."

After stating that the "difficulties" encountered by the OAU in raising the "funds needed for its action" are "known to everyone," the GUNT says that it has decided to support the OAU initiatives to obtain financial and technical assistance from the United Nations, for the financing of the inter-African force.

GHANA

PNDC SET TO INTRODUCE FOOD RATIONING SYSTEM

AB292230 Accra Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] intends to go ahead with its plan to introduce rationing in the distribution of food. Giving details during an interview with a Ghana Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Accra today, the secretary for trade, Mr Asante, said the ministry is awaiting reliable population census studies which would make the rationing effective. It would then be possible to supply identity cards to all categories of people like pensioners and nursing mothers for supplies of specific goods. Identifiable institutions like the ministries, corporations, industries and commercial houses will be supplied directly. This will eliminate the problem of workers leaving their offices to queue for goods.

On the current shortage of goods, Mr Asante said the Ministry of Trade is ready to assist traditional manufacturers to increase their production. He said even though certain brands of soap have been banned for health reasons, the ministry has asked the manufacturers concerned to appeal to the standards board for assistance to bring their products to the required standard.

ATIM TOURS EAST EUROPE TO DISCUSS PROJECTS

AB290940 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The development of Ghana-Soviet relations and the situation in Africa were among issues discussed during talks which took place between the five-man Ghana delegation and Soviet leaders. According to the Soviet news agency TASS, the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere. Other countries which the five-man delegation, led by Chris Atim, member of the Provisional National Defense Council, visited are Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the GDR. The tour is at the invitation of these countries and according to an official statement, the discussions will be based on economic projects initiated during the first republic but abandoned after the 1966 coup.

GROUPS CONDEMN U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

AB291400 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The joint consultative committee and the entire membership of the progressive anti-imperilaist organizations in Ghana have expressed firm support and solidarity with the Governments and peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba in the face of what they called U.S. threats and aggression against those countries.

In a message sent by the New Democratic Movement, June 4th Movement, the Pan-African Youth Movement, the People's Revolutionary League of Ghana, the Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guard and the African Youth Command, the organizations condemned American imperialism against all forms of progress and social justice in Central and Latin America.

The message said in the present great crisis of international capitalism, the forces of reaction are seeking to extinguish the examples offered to oppressed peoples of which Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba are shining examples. We in Ghana, the message continued, in the process of revolutionary change initiated by the overthrow of the third republic in the 31 December revolution, face the same forces as the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba. The message expressed the belief that strong unity and solidarity of progressive peace-loving peoples all over the world will ensure the victory of the common struggle against the enemies.

It added that the peoples of Central and Latin America, with the firm support of their friends and allies, will surely overcome U.S. imperialism.

TIMES SAYS U.S. ON WRONG SIDE OF AFRICAN HISTORY

AB270740 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The GHANAIAN TIMES wonders why the United States, an old friend of Africa, is today standing on the opposite side of history on the continent. The U.S. leadership does not support the genuine aspirations of freedom and justice of the African people.

In Namibia, for instance, says the paper, the United States is giving the excuse that it cannot support the demand of SWAPO for independence from apartheid South Africa because of the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. But the TIMES points out that when South African troops attacked Angola, had it not been for the determined resistance of the MPLA and a timely arrival of the Cubans, the independence of Angola would have been compromised. It notes that even at the moment, South African troops are in Angola commiting rape and aggression and killing innocent Namibians without any provocation. To the paper, the U.S. Government would have comdemned South Africa if it had listened to the American people.

The TIMES reminds the United States that this is not the age of democracy of the rich and the poor. Africans support the type of democracy which allows the genuine wishes of the hard-working majority to triumph.

RAWLINGS' REMARKS AT RECCE PDC INAUGURATION

AB261922 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, said today that the economy has to be put on a war footing. He said this will take a lot of deployment with everyone sharing in the problems and solutions.

Inaugurating the people's defense committee [PDC] for the Recce Regiment at Gonda Barracks, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said the restructuring of the economy will only be possible when the people are armed with the proper knowledge of issues involved through the formation of PDC's. He acknowledged that no revolution can benefit the majority of the people unless the people's own organizations play a major part in the country's political life and the methods to be used are not based on power from above, insolence or unquestioning obedience but rather social pressure and holding power in the service of the people.

The chairman stressed that it is a basic human right for people to organize, to demand or fight for their demands. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said this chance is the only valid alternative to the past system and it will work if only all Ghanaians display integrity, discipline and dedication. To the soldiers, he pointed out that the PDC is to integrate the officer corps and the other ranks since working in unity brings strength, support and encouragement especially in difficult times. Working as a group also serves as a check when one is tempted to misuse one's power.

Speaking at the function, Sgt Akata-Poree, a member of the PNDC emphasized that the inauguration of the Recce Regiment PDC implies that the unit, which is stationed at the PNDC headquarters, had been democratized and the committee shouls get down to constructive ventures instead of possible witch-hunting. He repeated the need for better soldier-civilian ties and called on the Recce Regiment PDC to share information with PDC's, both military and civilian, on the unit's achievements as good ground for motivation.

PNDC MEMBER EXPLAINS DEFENSE COMMITTEE AIMS

AB280915 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Sgt Alolga Akata-Poree, yesterday inaugurated the people's defense committee [PDC] of Ashiaman near Tema. Sergeant Akata-Poree explained that the present fight against the ostentation of the few is not to create a society of generally poor people. It is rather to eliminate the practice of the few enjoying the wealth of everybody. Sergeant Akata-Poree said the only way to achieve this objective is to organize and totally involve the people through the PDC's to defend the nation's wealth. He described the PDC idea as most democratic but warned the members that if the committees are not well organized, they will be disliked by the society and this will endanger the country.

Sergeant Akata-Poree also called on Ghanaians to organize a people's militia exercise to ensure national strength and security to fight external enemies. He advised the residents to take to communal labor and cooperate with the PDC to achieve the aims of the revolution.

Mr (Nyinuah Yen), member of the interim national coordinating committee for PDC's, asked the Ashiaman PDC to stop harassing the residents and foster dialogue with them. The chairman of the 11-member committee, Andrew (Torto), appealed for feedback on matters affecting the town.

OFFICIALS, LIBYAN ENVOY COMMENT ON REVOLUTION

Austin: Not Against West

AB262034 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council secretary for information, Mr Ato Austin, has declared that while the ongoing revolution is not against the West it is nevertheless violently against injustice, exploitation and domination in any form. Furthermore, Mr Austin said the revolution is specifically against the unjust economic relations between Ghana and her external trading partners which results in loss of resources to the country.

The PNDC secretary, who was speaking on a visit to the Volta Aluminium Company, Valco, at Tema, said the revolution aims at restructuring the various agreements which are biased in favor of foreign interests to make them more equitable. The secretary requested Valco to support the aluminium rolling mill venture. Ghana is losing on every ton of bauxite she exports whilst importing rolled aluminium sheets which cost many thousands of dollars more than bauxite. If Ghana cannot make effective use of the aluminium produced by Valco, then Valco cannot be considered a Ghanaian citizen but an American citizen, the secretary said.

On the use of water resources, Mr Austin asked Valco to take over the health problems created on the shores of the Volta Lake and River by the generation of electricity. Valco consumes about 70 percent of the electricity for the dam and must therefore bear a greater part of the cost of the health care along the lake.

Libyan Envoy: For All Africa

AB280735 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Accra, Mr al-Babruk, has declared that the 31 December revolution is not only for Ghanaians but for Africa as a whole. He was speaking at the inauguration of the people's defense committee for the airport residential area in Accra.

Mr al-Mabruk pointed out that no foreign power or antirevolutionary can ever lead Africans to achieve their objectives. He said the coming to power of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Committee] has dealt a blow to imperialism, removed all inferiority complex ard made the Ghanaian a free person. Mr al-Mabruk added that the revolution has also come to correct the selfish attitude of parliamentarians who were after their personal gains and not the welfare of the people.

Damuah: Has Religious Base

AB290705 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council, the Rev Dr Damuah, has declared that the current revolution is bound to succeed because it has a spiritual foundation. Christians should therefore regard themselves as apostles of the revolution. They should also propagate its objectives and see to its implementation.

The Rev Dr Damuah was preaching on the theme "The Role of the Church in the Revolution" at the Apostolic Divine Church in Accra yesterday. He said to create a meaningful impact on the revolution, the churches must understand and cooperate with each other.

The Rev Dr Damuah asked all sections of the community, including the churches, to undertake serious agriculture to ensure abundant food for domestic consumption and for export.

The national coordinator of the (?positive) Christian movement, Apostle Barnabas, dispelled rumors that Ghana is being transformed into a communist state. The revolution is aimed at eliminating all forms of injustices in the society. Apostle Barnabas said the destiny of the country is in the hands of Christians.

PNDC SECRETARY BANS 'HOLY WAR MOVEMENT'

AB262028 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council secretary for the Western Region, Dr M.A. Appiah, has banned an organization calling itself the Holy War Movement at Bibiani. This follows reports that the organization was terrorizing members of the Bibiani people's defense committee [PDC]. The organization was alleged to have issued warning notices to the members of the PDC to report at the nearest police station for their own safety. It was also said to have used the local radio relay station to make announcements asking the public to join the movement.

Dr Appiah described the activities of the Holy War Movement as counterrevolutionary. Meanwhile, some of the executives of the banned movement has been rounded up by military personnel and handed over to the police for questioning.

MALI

PRESIDENTS RETURN FROM NOUAKCHOTT, COMMENT

Moussa Traore

AB291929 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] President Moussa Traore returned to Bamako in the early afternoon from Nouakchott where he participated in the sixth summit of the organization of Saharan states. Speaking upon his return, President Moussa Traore said that coming after the Bamako summit in March 1980 this Nouakchott summit was one of concretization.

[Begin recording] [Moussa Traore] As you know, 2 years after the Bamako summit, a period during which we were able to strengthen our political relations, the Nouakchott summit was the summit of the concretization of the program for economic, technical, cultural and social cooperation which we adopted in March 1980. The basis of a mutually advantageous cooperation for our people is to make the Sahara a true zone of peace, harmony, fraternity and friendship, to consolidate the secular ties spun by history, geography and culture and also to strengthen our solidarity in the face of all threats of division and destabilization of all origins. The great decision made at the Nouakchott summit by the Saharan states is more than an expression of faith.

In line with the Bamako spirit, we reaffirmed once more our firm desire to preserve unity within our organization, to defend the fundamental principles of the OAU and UN Charters for the achievement of African unity and the preservation of peace and international solidarity in Africa and in the world.

As I said earlier, Nouakchott was the summit of the concretization of our main options oriented toward the development of our countries, the search for the happiness and prosperity of our peoples, in a nutshell, the building of an economically viable and politically sound Saharan organization.

In Nouakchott, as in El Dolea, Ouagadougou, Tripoli, Niamey and Bamako, we did not change our views on our main aim, that is, the improvement of the living conditions of the people in the Saharan states. That is why we decided to give concrete contents to the conclusions drawn up by the various commissions which examined the creation of efficient cooperation between the countries in agriculture, water supply, [word indistinct], animal husbandry and forestry and, of course, mining, industry, energy, transportation and telecommunications, commerce and finance as well as culture, information and social issues. As you can see, important decisions were, therefore, made at the sixth summit of Saharan heads of state. Our desire to strengthen the external project for a treaty of peace, fraternity, goodneighborliness and cooperation which was drawn up during the Bamako meeting is the very proof of the political willingness of the members of the organization of Saharan states. Naturally, as one of our main preoccupations is to create true African solidarity, the defense of the fundamental principles of the OAU Charter -- an irreplacable instrument for the maintenance of peace and stability -- we reaffirmed our desire to always contribute to the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts raging on the continent, particularly Chad and Western Sahara.

[Question] Mr President, was the problem of Western Sahara, which is now dividing the OAU, undoubtedly one of the salient points at the Nouakchott summit?

[Answer] As I stressed earlier, in view of the overall economic situation with which the African Continent is faced and particularly in view of the fact the OAU is faced with divergent views and serious problems affecting our continent, in particular our subregion, the summit reaffirmed its desire to help the OAU in its search for a peaceful African solution to the fratricidal Western Saharan conflict. We also reaffirmed our desire to continue to support the legal government in Chad for the restoration of peace and the preservation of the Sahel.

Finally, I would like to address to President Khouna Ould Haydala, to the Military Committee for National Salvation, to the Mauritanian people and Government the sincere thanks of my delegation and myself for the warm and brotherly welcome we received as well as the attention we received during our stay in Nouakchott. [end recording]

The Algerian President, Chadli Bendjedid, who also participated in the Nouakchott summit, stopped over in Bamako on his way from Nouakchott. He stressed the identity of views of Mali and Algeria on the problems of Chad and Western Sahara.

Algeria's Bendjedid

LD300118 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Summary] On his way home from Nouakchott tonight, President Bendjedid stopped in Bamako. Malian President Moussa Traore accompanied him on the flight from Nouakchott. At Bamako airport VIP lounge, President Bendjedid made a statement to Malian journalists.

"Asked about the results of the Nouakchott summit meeting, President Chadli Bendjedid said the conference generally was successful even though there were some slight reservations. However, the great majority confirmed their agreement on cooperation in various fields in implementation of the resolutions of the Bamako conference. He explained that Algeria believes in the principles of positive good neighborliness and honest and fruitful cooperation because this provides a basic element vital to the future of all Saharan and non-Saharan nations. This element is mutual confidence. He expressed the belief that the heads of state taking part were in agreement that this element of confidence exists and that this tends to strengthen the will for cooperation that will benefit all countries of the area, which need stability. Since we belong to the poor nations, we believe in fruitful cooperation to enable all of us to combat underdevelopment and the poverty, illness and ignorance it brings.

"Concerning regional issues, he said Mali's and Algeria's views on the Saharan issue are clear. We are with the Saharan people because they are fighting for the right of self-determination. We also advocate that African problems and disputes be resolved by peaceful means, that is, constructive dialogue on the basis of OAU principles. This is because the framework will enable us to overcome all problems bedeviling the African Continent, including the Western Sahara problem. We champion the Saharan people's right to self-determination and their right to express their own view quite freely without pressure or foreign intervention from any source. President Chadli Bendjedid noted that the political resolution of the Nouakchott summit was very clear in this regard. The president and party secretary general talked about developments concerning the admission of the SDAR to the OAU. He said there are some (?voices) trying to disturb the atmosphere. Regrettably, they are African countries which colonialism is using to (?split the organization)."

According to President Bendjedid, Algeria believes in the OAU and does not bargain over its principles. The OAU's strength lies in adhering to its principles because without principles the organizaton itself cannot be protected. The president expressed the belief that the African Continent is fully aware of the maneuvers and machinations aimed at the unity and progress of the organization. Africa also knows the agents of imperialism who work against the interests of the continent, whatever their slogans.

Speaking of the Chad problem, the president affirmed Algeria's clear stand which is to support the Chad Government that the OAU recognizes. In conclusion, President Bendejdid thanked the Malian president for his constructive efforts and stand toward just causes.

NIGERIA

GOVERNMENT: NO NEED TO PANIC OVER ECONOMY

AB262147 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The Federal Government has given the assurance that there is no cause for panic over the letter to the House of Representatives on the recent developments in the nation's economy.

The secretary to the government, Alhaji Shehu Musa, explained that the developments resulted from the continued worldwide economic recession and the prevailing glut in the oil market.

In a statement this evening, he frowned at the misconception over the letter to the speaker of the House of Representatives requesting for a meeting between leaders of the National Assembly and representatives of the executive to (?brief) them about the state of the economy. Alhaji Shehu Musa said that the intention of the letter was to seek the understanding and support of the members of the National Assembly for the measures the president intended to take to contain the situation. This, he said, was necessary since the 1982 appropriation and finance bills were still being considered by the National Assembly. Alhaji Shehu Musa regretted that an initiative to improve little cooperation between the legislative and executive arms of government and in the management of the national economy was being misinterpreted by some people. He noted that such issues as the national economy call for the full cooperation and commitment of every Nigerian [words indistinct] necessary to deal with the situation.

DAILY SKETCH: CAMEROON DIVERTS KARIYA RIVER

AB291130 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The DAILY SKETCH focuses attention on reports that Cameroon has started diverting River Kariya which provides water to Nigerian citizens in that part of Borno State and their arid plains. The SKETCH urges President Shehu Shagari to act immediately on the matter.

SENEGAL

PARTY REJECTS SDAR ADMISSION, SUPPORTS SWAPO

NC281521 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, 28 Mar (AFP) -- The National Council of Senegal's ruling Socialist Party has firmly rejected the admission of the self-proclaimed Saharan Democratic Republic to the Organisation of African Unity last month. The council denounced the move as "illegal", saying it would have negative repercussions and would compromise OAU attempts to organise a referendum on self-determination in the disputed Western Sahara. The council also affirmed the need for Africa to step up its support for the South West Africa People's Organisation in attempts to bring about independence for Nambia as soon as possible. The party welcomed the Confederation of Senegal and Gambia, supported without reservation the Fahd plan for peace in the Middle East and condemned Israel's "bellicose attitude" and the annexation of the Golan Heights.

SIERRA LEONE

GENERAL ELECTIONS EXPECTED TO BE HELD 30 APR

AB291612 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Freetown, 29 March (AFP) -- Sierra Leone's long-awaited general elections are expected to be held on April 30, reliable sources said today. An official of the government and President Siaka Stevens' ruling Sierra Leone People's Party refused comment on the reports. It would be Sierra Leone's first general elections under the one party system of the government set up in 1978. President Stevens had decided on elections last year during industrial unrest in August and September. But the elections were later called off following constitutional problems in organising premilitary primary elections, also a first for the country.

ANGOLA

ANGOLA-PORTUGAL COMMISSION ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

AB281305 Luanda ANGOP in French 1503 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 27 Mar (ANGOP) -- The second session of the Angola-Portugal joint commission, which took place in Luanda from 24 to 26 March, at the end of its deliberations, issued the following final communique:

The second session of the Angola-Portugal permanent joint commission for cultural, scientific, technical, economic, and commercial cooperation met in Luanda in a session of the permanent joint commission set up with the general accord for cooperation signed between the People's Republic of Angola and Portugal.

The Angolan delegation was led by Ismael Gaspar Martins, minister of finance, while the Portuguese delegation was led by Joao Salgueiro, minister of state for finance and planning.

The two delegations included: on the Angolan side, Paulino Pinto Joao, secretary of state for cooperation, and Venancio Moura, deputy minister of foreign relations; and on the Portuguese side, Leonardo Matias, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Fernando Faris de Oliveira, secretary of state for exports.

During its stay in Angola, the Portuguese delegation was received by the Angolan ministers of planning and external trade and foreign relations and the deputy ministers of industry and energy, with whom it discussed issues relating to cooperation between the two countries. The delegation members also had the opportunity to visit Mocamedes and Porto Alexandre where, together with the Angolan ministers of finance and local authorities, they examined prospects for cooperation in fishing complexes, ship repair, agriculture and the hotel business.

The deliberations were characterized by a climate of frank friendship and openness, reflecting the political will which animates the two governments to give a greater dimension to bilateral relations, in the respect of the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of each country, reciprocity of advantages and mutual respect.

The delegations thoroughly examined the activities of their cooperation and expressed satisfaction with the results already obtained in the various sectors, especially in cultural, scientific and technical fields in the domain of economic cooperation. They also were satisfied with the development of trade relations and they examined ways and means of making them more dynamic. Issues connected with the mutual desire to broaden qualitatively and quantitatively the bilateral cooperation also were examined as well as the possibility of improving the conditions of local integration of Portuguese residents in Angola involved with cooperation activities. In this context and in the understanding which will thus advantageously contribute to the development of these activities, it was decided to create a Portuguese school, the need for which and usefulness of which were acknowledged. The two parties also examined measures to improve medical assistance supplies and the granting of visas.

The deliberations defined priorities for action and considered means to achieve the effective intensification of work in these sectors: science, culture, health, agriculture, extractive industry, petroleum, industries and transformation, transport and communications construction and public works, tourism and banking.

Health and economic cooperation accords were signed. An accord in tourism was ratified.

UNION OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM MOSCOW CONGRESS

AB261651 Luanda ANGOP in French 1424 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 26 Mar (ANGOP) -- Pascual Luvualu, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Workers Party and secretary general of the National Union of Workers of Angola, UNTA, returned on Thursday from Moscow where he represented Angolan workers at the second congress of Soviet workers unions held from 16 to 20 March.

During his stay in the Soviet capital, UNTA sources disclose, Pascal Luvualu held talks with certain union leaders with a view to strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation with UNTA and took the opportunity to show the Angolan workers' solidarity with peoples struggling for freedom and peace.

At a press conference in Moscow, the UNTA secretary general denounced the criminal policy of the racist Republic of South Africa, geared against the People's Republic of Angola, and reiterated once again the desire of the Angolan people to continue to support the liberation struggles of the peoples of Namisia and South Africa led by SWAPO and the ANC.

EDUCATION VICE MINISTER LEAVES FOR GDR

AB251232 Luanda ANGOP in French 1120 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 25 Mar (ANGOP) -- Artur Pestana Pepetela, Angola's vice minister for middle and higher level education, left Luanda yesterday for Berlin where he will attend the second meeting of the joint Angolan-GDR subcommittee on education.

This meeting, which is being held within the context of the Angola-GDR joint intergovernmental committee, will take stock of activities carried out so far by the subcommittees of the two countries, particularly in vocational training and the training of executive staff. It also will consider the problems of middle level education and the sending of GDR teachers to the People's Republic of Angola. The meeting, which will last about 7 days, will study the educational prospects for next year.

YOUTH LEADER TO ATTEND HAVANA CONGRESS

AB261800 Luanda ANGOP in French 1428 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 26 Mar (ANGOP) -- Domingos Bartolemeu, first national secretary of the JMPLA -- Youth Movement of the Party -- and member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers Party, left Luanda on Thursday for Havana (Cuba) where he will participate in the Cuban youth union congress.

MADAGASCAR

PRESIDENT REJECTS SPECIAL OAU SUMMIT ON SDAR

AB271310 Paris AFP in French 1056 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Antananarivo, 27 Mar (AFP) -- President Didier Ratsiraka categorically rejected Moroccan proposals for an extraordinary OAU summit to enable the pan African organization to overcome the crisis it has been undergoing since the admission of the SDAR.

President Ratsiraka stated Madagascar's position while receiving in Antananarivo on Friday Saharan Education Minister Ali Mahmoud, who is also an envoy of the Polisario Front. He once again denounced Morocco's "delaying tactics" on the Western Saharan issue.

The Malagasy head of state pointed out that the OAU had once recognized and admitted Guinea-Bissau even when Portuguese troops still occupied that country. He recalled that since coming to power in 1975 and with the advent of a socialist regime, Madagascar had supported all national liberation movements without exception.

Ali Mahmoud thanked the Government and people of Madagascar for "their unconditional, militant and unselfish support for the Saharan people's struggle, which is a legal, political and military reality."

NAMIBIA

FRG'S STRAUSS VISITS WINDHOEK, TO MEET P. BOTHA

LD292200 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The leader of the West German opposition party, the Christian Social Union, Dr Franz-Josef Strauss, says nobody in the Western world would like to see a Marxist government in power in South-West Africa/Namibia. He said in Windhoek, where he had talks with several leaders in the territory, that it would not be in the interests of the nonwhites of South-West Africa if the territory follows the path of so many other African states after independence. He believes that Resolution 435 of the United Nations could serve as a basis for independence in South-West Africa, but he had many reservations. After his visit to South-West Africa/Namibia, Dr Strauss will travel to Cape Town for consultations with the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and the Cabinet ministers. He also intends meeting the president of Transkei, Chief Kaiser Matanzima, in Umtata.

FRG ENVOY REFUTES MUDGE CLAIM OF INTERFERENCE

LD292158 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] The German Government has rejected allegations in Windhoek that it is interfering in the internal politics of South-West Africa/Namibia. The German ambassador in Cape Town, Dr Ekkehard Eickhoff, told the South-West Africa Broadcasting Corporation that he had informed the chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Dirk Mudge, that the allegations against his government were unfounded. Last week Mr Mudge accused West Germany and some senior South African defense force officers of gross interference in the internal politics of the territory.

ZIMBABWE

CHIEF JOINS ZANU, LAUDS ONE-PARTY STATE

AB281023 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Salisbury, March 28 (AFP) -- One of Zimbabwe's leading tribal chiefs announced this weekend that he had dissolved his small independent party in order to join Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and lauded the idea of a one-party state.

Speaking to 300 people in the northwestern rural area where he is the traditional leader, Chief Jeremiah Chirau, who is also president of the National Council of Chiefs, urged members of his now-disbanded party to join ZANU. "I love peace and peace can be achieved through a one-party state," the 58-year-old chief said, adding that "trust and confidence are also necessary." Mr Mugabe has declared an intention to transform Zimbabwe into a one-party state. Chief Chirau formed his party at the end of 1979 after a brief term as deputy minister of water development in the transition Zimbabwe-Rhodesian government of Bishop Abel Muzorewa. The chief supported Joshua Nkomo's party in the 1980 elections. Yesterday he praised Mr. Mugabe's dismissal of Mr. Nkomo and three other members of Mr. Nkomo's party from the Cabinet because of their alleged involvement in hidden arms and a plot to overthrow the government.